

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

WISHBONE SHELTER—PROPERTY USE

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (Board) has reviewed the proposal from the Wishbone Pet Rescue Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Allegan Township has provided review and support of the proposal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board hereby approves the Wishbone Pet Rescue Inc. proposal, as attached; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED authorizes an initial project budget of up to \$100,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund balance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the County Administrator is authorized to incur the necessary measures to demolish the old shelter and prepare the site for a new modular structure to include addressing any substrate concerns around drains and provide a concrete pad with utility hook up; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the County Administrator is authorized to develop and execute the agreements in conjunction with legal counsel(s) and the Executive Director of Finance is authorized to perform the necessary budget adjustments to complete this action.



May 1, 2022

Allegan County Board of Commissioners
3283 122nd
Allegan, MI 49010

To: County Commissioners and County Administration
Ref: New Modular Structure

Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance has more than a decade of experience managing and improving operations at the Allegan county animal shelter. With the county’s collaboration under contract since 2011, Wishbone has had a positive impact in our Allegan community both for animals and humans alike.

Allegan County community members trust Wishbone Pet Rescue to house and protect the animals that arrive at the Allegan animal shelter. They rely on us for keeping in step with MI Dept of Ag increasing regulatory issues and health standards as well as reduced euthanization and increased adoption. Our community can now trust if their dog or cat is picked up as a stray, not only can they reclaim their animal due to our social media presence but animals will not be subjected to risk of disease.

Wishbone’s vision to make the Allegan animal shelter an adoption facility has been achieved with our commitment to fundraising, grant writing and development of our comprehensive medical program. Wishbone’s spay/neuter program for the shelter animals removes all animal control Dept of Ag mandate to follow up on contracted spay/neuter of adopted animals. With the new emphasis by the state for spay/neuter, Wishbone’s spay/neuter program avoids fines by the state for incomplete contracts by adopters.

As is with improvements in operations comes demands on the facility. Wishbone has functioned under tight space limitations. Animals still intubated from surgery lie on the floor under the feet of the veterinarian until awake and moved to a recovery area. However, recovery and pre-op for animals are held in carriers through-out the lobby and adoption room floors within the facility. Aside from the surgery space limitations, the shelter has inadequate supply storage, housing and isolation space for cats. Although the state does not mandate cats be brought to a county animal shelter Allegan Commissioners voted to continue housing cats in order to meet the demands of our Allegan community.

The County’s Quarterly Animal Shelter Committee was charged with the responsibility of a scoping document to identifying the limitations of the current facility and possible solutions. After constructive meetings over 3 years, Wishbone has determined that without extensive cost to modify the existing shelter, the only economical solution is a separate modular building. This building can then house not only a proper surgical suite with both pre-op & post-op space, but also storage, office space, all cat housing and dog assessment area. The county’s desire to raze the old animal shelter

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would allow for placement of a new modular structure which Wishbone would research and completely fund in its purchase. The building would meet all county and township approvals as well as necessary Dept of Ag regulations.

The county would be responsible for razing the old shelter, preparing the site for a new modular structure to include addressing any substrate concerns around drains and provide a concrete pad with utility hook up. This new structure would be insured and maintained by Wishbone. Additional specific details of this new venture to be discussed once Wishbone has the County Commissioners approval vote to move forward.

This solution not only meets Wishbone's needs for our improved services, but addresses the concerns by County Administration not to be left with a building that the County is unable to maintain in the event Wishbone is no longer contracted to manage the shelter.

Wishbone is asking the County Commissioners to discuss this matter at your next scheduled Commissioner meeting. Wishbone has it annual fundraising Gala on June 4, which will present an opportune time to continue to raise funds for this building.

Regards,

Jim Sellman, President



(269) 455-5247

PO Box 124

Douglas, MI 49406

www.wishbonepetrescue.org

Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, manages programs that shelter and care for rescued animals in West Michigan including the Wishbone House thrift shop and pet adoption center located at 165 Blue Star Hwy, Douglas, MI 49406, phone (269) 455-5247; and the Allegan County Animal Shelter located at 2933 33rd St., Allegan, MI 49010, phone (269) 686-5112.