

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Supervisor Rich Bostwick
& Supervisor Lou Peer**
INITIATED BY



Josh Smith
DRAFTED BY

Board of Health and County Board
Staff Committee
SUBMITTED BY

June 29, 2021
DATE DRAFTED

Providing Funding to Support the Construction of a New Facility for the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin

1 **WHEREAS**, the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin has acquired 44 acres of property and will be
2 constructing a new facility at 4700 S. CTH D between Janesville and Beloit, with groundbreaking
3 scheduled for July 12, 2021; and,
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Humane Society has been fundraising for several years to fund the construction of the
6 \$4.3 million facility, which will provide significantly more space to be able to accommodate animals and
7 provide services after having outgrown its current facility; and,
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Hendricks Family Foundation is matching donations of \$100,000 or more; and,
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Rock County has established a Community Agency Initiatives policy, whereby the County
12 Board can provide funding to eligible nonprofits that further the County's mission; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 174, Wis. Stats., identifies a role for counties in ensuring resources are available to
15 support humane societies, including through the County-administered dog license fund, which pays for
16 care of stray animals when no other resources are available; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 94, Wis. Stats., gives certain responsibilities to counties for funding rabies control;
19 and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, pet owners issued animal bite orders routinely struggle to find a facility that is available
22 and/or affordable to complete the required quarantine for rabies control and prevention; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Sheriff's Office employs a deputy with responsibilities as a humane
25 officer to ensure the well-being of animals;
26

27 **WHEREAS**, it is in the County's interest to support the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin.
28

29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
30 assembled this 8th day of July, 2021, does hereby direct the County Administrator to
31 include in the 2022 budget's Community Agency Initiatives funding a one-time payment of \$100,000, to
32 be funded with sales tax proceeds, to the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin for its capital
33 campaign, with the intent that this funding be matched by the Hendricks Family Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

/s/Rich Bostwick
Rich Bostwick, Chair

/s/Wes Davis
Wes Davis, Vice Chair

ABSENT
Tom Brien

/s/Kevin Leavy
Kevin Leavy

/s/Lou Peer
Lou Peer

DISSENT
J. Russell Podzilni

/s/Alan Sweeney
Alan Sweeney

DISSENT
Bob Yeomans

DISSENT
Mary Beaver

BOARD OF HEALTH

/s/Louis Peer
Louis Peer, Chair

VACANT
VACANT

ABSENT
Eric Gresens, R.PH

/s/Danette Rynes
Supervisor Danette Rynes

/s/Debra Kolste
Debra Kolste

/s/Dr. Connie Winter
Dr. Connie Winter, DDS, Vice Chair

/s/Shirley Williams
Supervisor Shirley Williams

/s/Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers
Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers, DVM, MPH

/s/Dr. Vijaya Somaraju
Dr. Vijaya Somaraju, MD, MPH, FACP

FISCAL NOTE:

The \$100,000 of funding will need to be included in the 2022 budget.

/s/Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County's authority to appropriate money in some contexts to community based nonprofit organizations has been called into question by the Wisconsin Attorney General. See OAG-01-07 opining that counties do not have the authority to directly appropriate money to a private nonprofit corporation whose sole mission is to operate a food pantry for the benefit of the county's citizens. However, counties also have broad authority to operate and expend money to address animal control, animals welfare, and address the humane treatment of animals, *see* Wis. Stat. §§ 59.54, 59.23(2)(dg), Chps. 172-174, including the power to appropriate funds out of the dog license fund to fund ongoing operation of a county designated humane society.

s/Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel