



MEDIA RELEASE

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

Casey Miller
Public Information Officer
225 West Olive Street
Newport, OR 97365
Phone: 541.265.4989
cmiller@co.lincoln.or.us

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON A PLAN TO MAINTAIN ANIMAL SHELTER REACHED

Lincoln County officials and the board of the Friends of the Lincoln County Animal Shelter have reached tentative agreement on a plan to maintain animal shelter operations at or near current levels for the 2009-2010 budget year.

Details of the proposal will be presented to the Lincoln County Budget Committee at its final meeting Wednesday night. The plan will involve using portions of the shelter trust fund and the county's Community and Economic Development fund, plus donations, increased dog license fees and greater use of volunteers in shelter operations.

The plan is a response to widespread public concern over the proposed closure of the shelter to the public as of June 30. The closure was part of the county management team's response to an unprecedented fiscal crisis that saw projected general fund revenues drop by 18 percent and has led to the elimination of 60 positions, or 15 percent of the total county workforce.

Officials with both the county and Friends stressed that the majority of these dollars are from one-time sources, and are not sustainable over the long term. Patty Burke, president of the Friends board, said the plan buys time to develop a business plan and long-term funding strategy for the shelter.

For more info, contact or donations:

Patty Burke
PO BOX 2264
Newport, OR

Folcas2009@hotmail.com

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