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## Brookhaven supe says he's open to sharing dog shelter

By [Jennifer Gustavson](#) | March 2, 2011 in [News](#)

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Brookhaven Supervisor Mark Lesko on Wednesday confirmed he has had discussions with Riverhead Supervisor Sean Walter about the possibility of Brookhaven's animal shelter taking on dogs from Riverhead's shelter, thus relieving Riverhead of the need to have an animal shelter.

The idea, which was discussed at Tuesday's Riverhead Town Board meeting and at a Riverhead shelter advisory committee meeting Monday, was opposed by several residents who spoke at the two meetings. Despite this, Mr. Walter believes his town could save around \$150,000 through the move.

"I briefly spoke with Supervisor Walter, but no details were discussed and no agreements made," Mr. Lesko told the News-Review. "I am open to having our animal shelter staff examine the needs of Riverhead and determine if the Town of Brookhaven can help. The town is always willing to talk to other municipalities, school and fire districts about the consolidation of services and inter-municipal agreements that can help save the taxpayer's money."

[Click here for Tuesday's coverage.](#)

Tags: [Riverhead Animal Shelter](#), [Supervisor Mark Lesko](#)

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**DUMP WALTER** 2 days ago

Perhaps Sandmine Sean is relying on the same Brookhaven political boss who told him to give Riverhead Resorts another extension to do his bidding for the Dog Pound as well???

And where is the \$6 million owed to the Town, Mr. Walter?

1 person liked this.

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**curious owl** 2 days ago

How is this consolidation going to save the Town of Brookhaven's tax payers. Out shelter cannot accomadate the town now, what happens when we start taking on the animals from Riverhead. Are we going back to a "kill" shelter, to make room? Broohaven Tax Payers we a screwed again!

Like

Reply



**Antoinette11** 2 days ago

The sharing of services between municipalities is always a welcome and excellent idea. However, I would caution the Town Board to complete a cost-benefit analysis before jumping into this co-service agreement. Items such as transportation, continued staff salaries and wage benefit packages, ability of Town residents to adopt dogs, re-use of the property currently assigned out Shelter- all need to be considered and carefully weighed against the benefit of sending our animals to Brookhaven. And where will we hold animals that may be picked up at 1 am or 8pm on a Sunday when the Brookhaven facility is not open? Will the Town have 24-hour, 7-day a week access to the Brookhaven facility? And if we do have such access, will we be paying our police officers overtime to perform these duties? One ACO cannot work 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. More details are needed, careful analysis of the pros and cons must be completed. But this still is a great idea.

Like

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**Triumph** 14 hours ago [in reply to Antoinette11](#)

Finally, a voice of reason! Antoinette11, its nice to see someone who uses a logical thought-process instead of basing their decisions solely on emotion.

Like

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## Reactions



**mikewhite31** 2 days ago

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