



69° F
HI: LO:62

RiverheadPatch

[Sign Up](#) [Log In](#) [Change Towns](#)



Editor [Paul Squire](#): Covering Riverhead, Wading River, Baiting Hollow, Aquebogue, Jamesport, Flanders, Riverside and Calverton.

[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Places](#)

[Marketplace](#)

[Q&A](#)

[Volunteer](#)

Search



[Government](#)

[Print](#)

[Email](#)

Town in Talks With Nonprofit to Take Over Animal Shelter

North Fork Animal Welfare League, which runs Southold's shelter, is in talks with the town to take over the Youngs Avenue facility.

By [Joseph Pinciario](#) | [Email the author](#) | September 29, 2011

[0 Comments](#)



Related Topics: [Animal Shelter](#) and [North fork animal welfare league](#)

Following the recent resignation of head animal control officer Lou Coronese, town leaders announced on Thursday morning that further changes may be ahead at the town's animal shelter, as the town is currently in talks with a nonprofit organization to take over operations there.

Councilman Jim Wooten, liaison to the animal advisory committee, in recent months has mentioned ongoing talks with the [North Fork Animal Welfare League](#), which operates the Southold Animal Shelter. On Tuesday he said talks are still ongoing, as NFAWL architects are currently evaluating the Youngs Avenue facility and determining what a fair price may be.

"Logistically, they are looking right now, though negotiations would have to be done through executive session," Wooten said. He added that a meeting for next week has been set up between the organization, himself, Supervisor Sean Walter and the town's chief financial administrator, Bill Rothaar.

The NFAWL operated Southold's animal shelter in 2010 for just over \$195,000, and is budgeted in the town's 2012 budget to receive \$208,588.

In Riverhead's 2011 budget, \$171,650 was budgeted to run the shelter, though the budget shows that in 2009 just over \$210,000 was spent.

Walter expressed optimism at the thought of getting the facility out of the direct responsibility of the police department. Police Chief David Hegermiller agreed.

"It would be a good thing for the dogs to privatize it," he said.

Wooten mentioned that a private organization's ability to raise funds and actively promote adoption of the dogs would be a private organization's biggest benefit over the town's.

Just over a year ago, Wooten had [put out a request for proposals](#) for private bidders to run the shelter, and one response — from Riverhead Shelter Volunteer Program — was taken in. However town leaders chose not to offer the contract since only one bid was received, and expressed concern at the organization's ability to run the shelter.

Animal activists — several from RSVP — started calling for Coronese's resignation last winter after records showed that [he called for a dog to be euthanized](#) less than a week after he wrote that it was showing great improvement. While some members of the community [threatened with an investigation from the District Attorney](#), no such investigation ever materialized.

A call to the NFAWL was not immediately returned.

[Follow this article](#)

[Submit a tip](#)

[Add photos & video](#)

[0 Comments](#)

Leave a comment

Submit >

Advertise

Advertise on Patch and reach potential customers in your backyard and beyond. Click here for more information.

[Learn more »](#)

Volunteer

If you want to help local causes, or your cause needs local help, your next click should be right here.

[Learn more »](#)

Contribute

- [Send us news tips](#)
- [Put an event on the calendar](#)
- [Announce something to everyone](#)

Patch Info

[About Us](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

Get in Touch

[Help](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Patch Blog](#)

Patch Initiatives

[PatchU](#)

[Patch.org](#)

Goodies

[Newsletters](#)

[Widgets](#)

