

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - OCTOBER 18, 2004

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services recommends that staff be authorized to participate in the circulation of a joint Request for Expression of Interest with other municipalities in York Region.

Purpose

This report is to provide information on the continuing efforts to improve service in the area of Animal Control.

Background - Analysis and Options

Animal Control Services in the City of Vaughan have been provided by Kennel Inn Inc. since the 1970's. The current three year contract with Kennel Inn expires in April 2005. This expiring contract was budgeted for \$250,000 per year.

Over the past year the quality and level of Animal Control services provided to Vaughan and other municipalities in York Region has been scrutinized by the municipalities and external groups.

As a result, an ad hoc committee was struck with most York Region municipalities participating to examine the problems and recommend solutions. During this work Kennel Inn improved their service levels and the overall condition of their facilities. They also hired a business analyst to establish a long term business plan.

The ad hoc committee identified the costs related to building and maintaining a new joint animal control facility with no involvement by Kennel Inn. The costs for this option were prohibitive. It was estimated that the up front cost would be \$4 million with an annual maintenance cost of at least \$500,000. Any costs related to Animal Control or enforcement would be additional to these amounts.

While this work was going on Vaughan also examined other solutions. Preliminary discussions lead to a potential agreement with the Town of Caledon to lease part of their animal shelter to Vaughan, with Enforcement Services conducting Animal Control and enforcement of the applicable by-laws. This was reported to Council on January 5, 2004 (Item 5, Report 2). Unfortunately, the Town of Caledon chose not to continue with this project.

The work of the ad hoc group has continued over the summer of 2004. The municipalities of Markham, Richmond Hill, Aurora, King and Vaughan have examined some kind of joint service delivery model.

As indicated above, Kennel Inn Inc. hired a business consultant to work on establishing a business plan. The owner and the General manager of Kennel Inn presented their plan to representatives of area municipalities in the late summer. They also presented a version of this plan to the working Session of the Committee of the Whole on September 28, 2004. In short they are looking at large increases in the costs of contracts. In addition to the costs they are also looking for a long term contract and a contribution to the capital required for a new facility.

Staff have indicated to Kennel Inn that the City will not be in a position to make any contribution to capital. If the York Region municipalities are agreeable to the long term contract, it will be up to Kennel Inn to arrange its own financing based on the long term contract.

The increased costs are not tied to establishing a new facility. For the City of Vaughan, the increase equals \$0.53 per capita (\$124,500). This would increase our annual cost in the first year of a new contract to \$374,000. It would be expected that by the end of the next contract costs would be over \$500,000 per year. Other municipalities are facing costs increases of \$0.80 per capita.

Kennel Inn has enjoyed a monopoly in this market for a number of years. There are currently no known businesses in York Region that can perform the same functions as Kennel Inn.

However, the municipalities mentioned above are now in a position to circulate a joint Expression of Interest for Animal Control Services. This will allow Vaughan and the other municipalities to identify any other vendors in the area and evaluate their potential.

There will be no cost to Vaughan for the circulation of this Expression of Interest.

This process will permit the area municipalities to better prepare for budgeting the costs related to Animal Control Services.

The other municipalities involved are also seeking their Council's approval to issue the Expression of Interest documents. The intention is to circulate the document the first week of November.

Relationship to the Vaughan Vision

This report is in keeping with the Vaughan Vision by delivering the best service possible. This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The circulation of a joint Expression of Interest document for Animal Control is a prudent step in the process of identifying any vendors capable of delivering this service.

Attachments

None.

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Respectfully submitted,

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