

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) MARCH 28, 2006

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services recommends that this report be received and that staff be authorized to enter into a yearly contract with Kennel Inn for up to three years without penalty for cancellation on terms as set out in this report and satisfactory to the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services and that the terms of reference for a joint site selection, costing and feasibility study be brought back to Council when available.

Economic Impact

The economic impact of entering into an interim contract with Kennel Inn is set out in this report.

Purpose

This report is to provide information relating to the negotiations with Kennel Inn Inc. to provide animal control and sheltering services for the City of Vaughan and to inform Council on other activities carried out by staff relating to animal control.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council at its meeting of January 23, 2006 directed that:

1. negotiations be carried out with Kennel Inn for extension of its contract for the provision of Animal Control services beyond March 31, 2006 and that the terms of a proposed contract extension be brought back to Council;
2. the City participate with Richmond Hill and King in a site selection, costing and feasibility study for a joint animal control facility and report back to Council with the terms of reference of such a study; and
3. the ad hoc committee appointed by the City Manager continue to investigate possible sites and opportunities for the provision of animal control services by the City for itself or including other municipalities.

Currently the contract with Kennel Inn has been extended to March 31 on the basis of an annualized cost of \$339,000.00 as budgeted in the 2005 and 2006 Budget.

As directed, negotiations have been carried out jointly by the City, the Towns of Richmond Hill and Aurora and the Township of King which have resulted in an offer from Kennel Inn to the City for a contract on a year by year basis for \$350,000 in the first year, \$375,000 in the second and \$400,000 in the third year. This contract would continue the same level of service as exists currently. Discussions were held with Kennel Inn to look at possible reductions to the service but Kennel Inn was only interested in continuing the same level because of staffing commitments. These costs would cover all previously covered costs except in the event that a pit bull is impounded, the City would be billed for the costs of containment as required by Provincial regulation.

At the date of writing this report, the terms of reference for the joint Animal Control study to be carried out by Richmond Hill are not available from Richmond Hill.

The ad hoc Committee continues to explore other animal control/sheltering options and discussions with Brampton are taking place.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The long term solution for the provision of animal control services should continue to be explored by staff and in the interim, the contract with Kennel Inn should be continued.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services