

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING

May 9, 2016

Present: R. Carlson, S. Galloway, D. Helm, B. Clark

Review of Replacement Shelter Service Agreement to Delaware County Animal Protection Board Contract with Brandywine Valley SPCA

Bruce Clark noted that the Township was recently notified by a joint memo from the Delaware County Animal Protection Board (APB) and the Brandywine Valley SPCA (BVSPCA) that the stray animal shelter agreement that the APB had entered into with BVSPCA for a multi-year period was being terminated unilaterally as of June 1, 2016. Bruce noted that no prior communication had been sent out from the APB regarding problems with the agreement or attempts to address administrative problems. He stated that several newspaper articles about the contract cancellation made reference to a number of larger municipalities with large numbers of stray animals not paying the boarding fees as agreed upon by the APB and the BVSPCA when the arrangement was first setup. He noted that typically the Township does not generate many strays taken to the BVSPCA to be held for pickup by their owner or adoption, so the cost to the Township for this service was not especially burdensome, although higher than had been charged by the Delaware County SPCA when they were previously providing the service.

Bruce noted that the Township contracted with the BVSPCA in December 2015 to also begin providing animal control services, as the response to resident complaints and investigation follow through by the prior Animal Control Officer became unreliable. Since assuming the Animal Control Officer duties under the agreement with the Township, the BVSPCA service was timely and complaints were followed through on well. As a result of the existing contract relationship between the BVSPCA and the Township, the BVSPCA has offered a contract to provide shelter service to the Township at a substantially less costly rate than has been offered to other municipalities in the County who need to replace the shelter agreement formally handled through the Animal Protection Board. He reviewed with the committee a financial breakdown that Meredith had prepared showing the estimated cost for service under the proposed agreement with the BVSPCA based on an average number of animals taken to the shelter versus a high-end cost estimate. Compared with the current budgeted estimate of \$6,860 for 2016, the new agreement with the BVSPCA would cost around \$7,415 for a typical amount of activity or \$8,830 based on a high level of annual activity. Bruce reported that following the joint announcement of the cancellation of the county-wide contract, there has been little discussion among all municipalities about setting up an alternate shelter arrangement, and no information has been provided through Delaware County itself. He noted that several municipalities at the western end of the county have been attempting to develop a plan using a veterinarian in the

Concord Township area who would upgrade his state license to allow for kennel services for municipalities, but the details of that possibility have not been worked out and there appears to be a variable cost relating to veterinarian fees for medical services provided by the vet to animals brought in by animal control officers that is difficult to estimate at this stage. He suggested that the proposed shelter agreement with the BVSPCA be entered into at this point to cover the Township's needs, at least in the short-run, and the Township could consider options at the end of the two-year period if alternate arrangements were setup involving other municipalities that had more advantageous terms. Committee members agreed that the cost projections under the BVSPCA proposal are close to what the current estimated costs for providing animal control and shelter services in the Township are, and will recommend Council acceptance of the BVSPCA shelter services agreement. The committee suggested that it be placed on the agenda for Council consideration at the May 23, 2016 regular meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Carlson at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



W. Bruce Clark
Township Manager