

SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 @ 5:30 pm., Board Room

Members Present: Nagle (C), Oberbeck, Brezinski, Nutting, Winters

Others Present: Jacobson, Hardel, Barnes, Loy, Wagner, Mielke, Kellbach, Rasmussen, Goede, Linda Karger, Mary Kirlin of the Humane Society, and other interested parties.

Discussion and consideration of proposal received in response to the city's RFP for animal impoundment services - stray cats.

Anne Jacobson explained there was one response to the RFP from the Marathon County Humane Society with two separate proposals. One bid is specifically for 150 stray cats only at \$30,000; the other bid is for 150 stray cats and up to 12 additional stray animals other than stray dogs and cats for \$32,400.

Lt. Matt Barnes indicated they hosted a meeting with the Humane Society (HS) to obtain clarifications in the proposal. He pointed out it is not just 150 *stray* cats; it is 150 *cats* either stray or feral. He noted this is separate from bite/quarantines and it would also mean a mother cat with 10 kittens would count as 11 cats; or a pregnant cat that gives birth within the first week would count the number of kittens delivered.

Jacobson asked the committee to direct staff to either reject the response or to go forward and negotiate a contract with the Humane Society of Marathon County and to clarify any other directives in regard to said contract. She indicated the contract would need to come back to Finance, go forward to Council for adoption and be signed by March 31, 2014 in order to get the money from the county.

Nutting questioned if citizens could bring cats to the HS on their own. Barnes explained the average citizen of Wausau that recovers a cat and wants it to go the HS would have to contact law enforcement to have either the humane officer or a police officer pick up the cat and transport it to the HS.

Oberbeck questioned how this handles other participating municipalities. Hardel stated we will need to clarify that in our contract with Weston. We would bill Weston 18% of the additional money that we are going to have to come up with between the county's reimbursement and the total contract amount of \$32,400, however, once we get above 150, they would have to pay for those cats separately. Winters explained the 18% cost sharing figure was based on the number of dispatch calls to 911 for Everest Metro and how many went to Wausau. Oberbeck was concerned about the overage of the 150 number and how it is determined who pays the \$220 or \$240 per cat at that point. He did not want Wausau subsidizing other municipalities for the service. Hardel suggested putting in a specific number of cats from the jurisdiction, or 18% of 150; once they reach that number they pay the increased price per cat brought in above that.

Barnes commented they should decide whether to have us negotiate based on \$32,400 for the 150 cats and up to 12 non-cats and non-dogs; \$220 for every additional cat up to the next 150, then \$240, and we don't come back to Finance until the end of the year regardless of how many cats we get. Or we just accept 150 cats and come back to committee when we reach 130. Consensus was to have a plan in place so that they don't have to come back to Finance till the end of the year. Brezinski felt the number it will cost if we exceed should be included so we know how much it is going to cost us. Barnes stated it is \$332 a cat if we terminate the contract. Linda Karger, HS, explained the escalator costs, which is a 10% upcharge and termination language. She noted the price has been discounted and \$332 is the actual cost per cat. Mary Kirlin explained the expense of care of animals and the costs of additional personnel.

Oberbeck commented we need to consider micro chipping and the advantages of it. This is a way to be proactive in reducing the stray population and will also identify what municipality the animal comes from. Discussion took

place regarding the licensing of animals at the Humane Society and the issues for them. Barnes indicated he was working with the Humane Officer, Ashlee Bishop regarding micro chipping. He stated she is putting together the possibility and seeking co-sponsors from vet clinics and donors to help us get started with clinics to just do micro chipping and licensing or micro chipping, licensing and rabies vaccination all at once. The cost would be reduced for the micro chipping to about \$15 instead of \$60 or \$70. He indicated they will also be providing the Council with information on a trap, neuter, and release program.

Motion by Winters, second by Oberbeck to authorize staff to negotiate a contract with the Humane Society of Marathon County; a number of 18% of 150 cats be set in the Weston contract; and the motion includes the flexibility for the Police Department to negotiate on the escalator costs. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Oberbeck, second by Nutting to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.