



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Feb 22, 2021

Date: SPCA Contract

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

The SPCA has provided dog enforcement and pound operations on our behalf for many years. There was a brief period where the Municipality of Argyle, along with its partners (MODY, TOY) selected an alternative route for the dog enforcement. Otherwise, the service has traditionally been offered by the SPCA Yarmouth Branch.

The SPCA's across NS have a central operation in Halifax. The SPCA NS office reached out to remind us all that the 2 year contract with them shall expire at the end of March 2021. They expressed a willingness to extend this agreement for three years, rather than two, at the same cost for the service as in the past two agreements with them.

For comparison purposes, when the three units temporarily engaged a third party to do dog bylaw enforcement, the cost was \$75,000 - \$25,000 for each unit, and that did not include shelter services. We do not currently readily have access to an alternative delivery of service, and we do not have internal resources to perform this duty internally.

Overall, since the SPCA NS took over operations, we have seen a significant drop in complaints and issues, and they handle the training and certification of all their enforcement staff. We are pleased with the service they provide, and they offer more than just enforcement services; specifically, animal cruelty cases are handled by a division of this organization. Overall, they are a reputable organization that fundraises successfully, and provides quality service to our community, including finding new homes for pets to love.

Budget considerations:

The SPCA NS is proposing a freeze on cost increase. Total cost for the service shall be \$29,445 per year.

MGA considerations:

Dog enforcement is considered a common bylaw enforcement service and falls within the definition of traditional municipal services. The MGA specifically allows Bylaw control over animals in Section of the Act.

Contributions to the SPCA for pound related services is not specifically stated as a municipal service in the same manner as dog enforcement, however, Section 65 allows contributions to charities or non-profit organizations to provide such a service.

CAO's Recommendation:

CAO reached out to our partners in the funding arrangement, and TOY, MODA and MODY are in agreement that a three-year contract makes better sense than two, and the cost being frozen is a welcomed change to other services that are increasing in cost.

Recommend that we sign a three year service agreement. The agreement will be verified by legal before signature by the CAO.

Suggested motion:

Move that the CAO coordinate and sign a three year service agreement with the SPCA for Dog bylaw services at an annual cost of \$29,445.