



Regular Council Meeting

To:	Mayor and Council
Date:	February 20, 2024
From:	Cindy Page, Clerk
Report Number:	Corporate Services 2024-02
Subject:	Pound Keeper Services

Recommendation:

That Council direct staff to enter into an agreement with the Peterborough Humane Society for Pound Keeper Services for the Township of Cavan Monaghan.

Overview:

Dog Control and Pound Keeper Services are levels of service that have been offered for over 30 years within the Township. The majority of the tenure for pound keeper services have been with the Peterborough Humane Society and the Dog Control Enforcement is contracted by the Township to secure the dogs that are at large and if unable to locate the owner the dog is taken to the pound keeper.

On January 11, 2022, the Township received a letter of termination from the Peterborough Humane Society for pound keeper services as an outcome of their request for \$50,000 through the 2022 Budget Process. The Peterborough Humane Society was building a new facility and fundraising a large component. Council of the day did not support their request. At that time, the Dog Control Officer contacted our local kennels and veterinarian clinics to inquire about alternative options, but they were not interested in providing the primary pound keeper services as this service encompass more than just a holding place for the dog.

Staff reached out to our neighbouring municipalities in the County of Peterborough and there are four municipalities that have agreements with the Peterborough Humane Society and one has an agreement with the Northumberland Humane Society. There are two municipalities that do not currently have pound keeper agreements.

Staff have had discussions with the Northumberland Humane Society and the Peterborough Humane Society, the draft proposals that are being offered are both a flat rate fee with similar services, there is not the option for a fee for services as in our previous agreement. There is no longer the fee for service option as the increasing costs to operate the facilities and to provide this level of service. The proposed rate with the Northumberland Humane Society annually is \$15,000 and the Peterborough Humane Society is \$12,000.

Should Council direct staff to explore kennels as pound keeper services within Cavan Monaghan staff would first need to investigate the insurance liability and risk from the Townships perspective as well as the Kennel operator, veterinary care and vaccination services, an adoption program should the dog not be picked up within the 72 hours, and the legalities and logistics of these options and processes, as well as all of the unknown costs associated with these items.

Staff are recommending that Council enter into an agreement with a Humane Society as they are the experts with the properly equipped facility and in-house services to fulfill the dogs needs and requirements. The facility is equipped with the proper suites to house strays, lost, and dangerous/aggressive dogs, trained staff with the expertise to provide animal care, the proper food for the animals needs and age, veterinary care for minor and major medical care as required, microchipping, vaccinations, and a program to help find the owner or to assist the animal in adoption once eligible.

Financial Impact:

Staff have proposed a request for \$15,000.00 in the proposed 2024 Operating Budget and should Council support entering into an agreement with the Peterborough Humane Society the request would be reduced to \$12,000.00.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Cindy Page
Clerk

Yvette Hurley
Chief Administrative Officer