

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2012

Item 7, Report No. 14, of the Finance and Administration Committee, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan December 11, 2012, as follows:

By approving that the Wildlife Services be part of the service review and that staff report back at that time.

**7 ONTARIO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
 PROVISION OF WILDLIFE SERVICES**

The Finance and Administration Committee recommends:

- 1) That consideration of this matter be deferred to the January 14, 2013 Finance and Administration Committee meeting; and**
- 2) That staff be requested to provide a further report to the Finance and Administration Committee at its January 14, 2013 meeting, taking into consideration comments made at the December 3, Finance and Administration Committee meeting and including the potential of wildlife services being provided by other agencies, including the related costs of such services and options for cost recovery.**

Recommendation

The Acting Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services and City Solicitor recommends that

1. This report be received; and
2. Should Council decide to enhance animal services to include a wildlife component, that the associated costs be included in the Draft 2013 Operating Budget and 2014-2016 Operating Plan.

Contribution to Sustainability

Any agreement with the OSPCA for wildlife services would provide for enhanced care of sick or injured wildlife in the City which would in turn promote the City's natural environment.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact relating to the receipt of this report. However, should the City decide to enhance animal services to include a wildlife component, the associated costs would need to be included in the Draft 2013 Operating Budget and 2014-2016 Operating Plan. The OSPCA estimates that it can provide wildlife services to the City for \$167,920 plus HST per year, for the service level noted below.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information with respect to the nature and cost of any agreement with the OSPCA to provide wildlife services in the City.

Background - Analysis and Options

On June 26, 2012, Council directed that appropriate Staff meet with representatives of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSCPA) to determine the nature and

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cost of a service agreement between the OSPCA and the City, to carry out the enforcement of the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* as may be necessary and advisable in respect of animals resident or passing through the City. Council also directed that the cost of any agreement with the OSPCA be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration as part of the 2013 budget process.

The City receives calls pertaining to wildlife ranging from injured animals, or dead animals which may be diseased. Since April of this year, these calls represent approximately 19% of all calls received by Animal Services. Residents who make these calls are concerned for their own health and safety, as well as the welfare of the injured animal. The City's current Animal Services model does not include a wildlife component. Accordingly, these types of calls are directed to other agencies such as the Toronto Wildlife Centre, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and even the York Regional Police. The Ministry of Natural Resources, however, does not have a field response unit and they only deal with certain types of wildlife. York Regional Police respond to wildlife issues only in exceptional circumstances to protect the health and safety of residents. In some instances, the MNR and Police refer their calls to the Toronto Wildlife Centre. The Toronto Wildlife Centre, however, does not have sufficient resources to respond to Vaughan wildlife issues as they are a charity based organization. The Executive Director for the Toronto Wildlife Centre made a deputation to Council on April 24, 2012 requesting that the City provide a minimal wildlife response to its residents, similar to services already provided in surrounding municipalities.

Staff from the Enforcement Services Department and the Legal Services Department met with the Operations Manager of the OSPCA to discuss the scope and nature of service that the OSPCA could provide to the City. The OSPCA already provides animals services, including wildlife, for Markham, Richmond Hill, and Aurora. Based on call frequency, the size of Vaughan, and their experience with other similarly situated municipalities, the following is an outline of the level of service that the OSPCA could provide to the City:

- One peace officer dedicated to Vaughan who will pick up all sick, injured or dead stock wildlife within the City. This officer will work from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday and will be trained in the pertinent legislation and properly equipped.
- 24 hour, 7 day a week on-call services for wildlife calls. A peace officer from a rotation of 12 officers shared with surrounding municipalities will respond outside of the times noted above.
- Dispatch Staff to deal with wildlife response calls who answer phones between 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Outside of these hours, a message for emergency response is on the answering service and the public is given a telephone number which goes directly to the on-call peace officer.
- Up to five education seminars per year provided by the OSPCA to members of the Vaughan public for wildlife education training.
- City of Vaughan decals on OSPCA vehicles
- Rehabilitation of injured or sick wild animals. Animals who are candidates for rehabilitation are transported to a facility that can accept the species.

The estimated cost for the above services would be approximately \$167,920 plus HST per year. The OSPCA is already mandated with enforcing the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, so a separate agreement for its enforcement is unnecessary. Residents can continue to contact the OSPCA regarding any possible animal cruelty in the City. As there may

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be other agencies that may be able to provide the same service, a public RFP process would be recommended.

As indicated above, Markham, Richmond Hill, and Aurora have already contracted with the OSPCA for all animal services, including wildlife. There may be an opportunity for the OSPCA to assume some overflow non-wildlife services from the City to improve delivery of animal services. This will be examined in the context of the program review for Animal Services currently underway.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Since April of this year, approximately 19% of all calls received by Animal Services relate to wildlife. Residents would like the City to pick up sick and injured wildlife, as they believe that such a service promotes their own health and safety as well as the humane treatment of wildlife. The City's current Animal Service model does not have a wildlife component. Preliminary meetings with the OSPCA show that they could provide wildlife services for the City for approximately \$167,920 plus HST per year. This would entail the pick of sick, injured or dead wildlife. Should Council wish to enhance animal services to include a wildlife component, the associated costs should be included in the Draft 2013 Operating Budget and 2014-2016 Operating Plan.

Attachments

Not applicable.

Report prepared by:

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Legal Counsel

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)