



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 27, 2024

DATE: August 6, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Tammy Wines-Jennings, Assistant Director, Regional Animal Services
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THROUGH: Shyanne Schull, Director of Regional Animal Services

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an interlocal agreement between Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (“RSIC” or “Tribe”) and Washoe County, by and through Washoe County Regional Animal Services (“WCRAS”), with a term of three years; and authorize the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the agreement. Under this agreement, WCRAS will provide certain animal control and sheltering services for the benefit of the Tribe, including impoundment and care of stray/lost dogs and cats found on Reservation property; disposition of unclaimed dogs and cats; quarantine of dogs and cats that have bitten a person; safehold of dogs and cats in the event of an owner’s death; limited field services; and yearly outreach (vaccination) services, with costs to be borne by Tribe as specified in Exhibit A. It is further recommended to authorize the Director of WCRAS to approve and execute annual addendums with amendments to Exhibit A (Costs & Fees) and Article 11 (Notices) as necessary. (All Commission Districts).

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve a three-year interlocal agreement between Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, a sovereign federally-recognized Indian tribe under Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (hereinafter referred to as the Tribe), and Washoe County, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada, by and through Washoe County Regional Animal Services (“WCRAS”), to allow WCRAS to provide certain animal control and sheltering services for the benefit of the Tribe, with costs to be borne by the Tribe in accordance with Exhibit A (Costs & Fees). The agreement provides that Tribe and WCRAS may negotiate and agree upon updated services fees annually, taking effect at the start of WCRAS’s fiscal year. Accordingly, it is also recommended that the Board authorize the Director of WCRAS to execute annual addendums to Exhibit A and to Article 11 (Notices), as needed, to keep the agreement up-to-date.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability

PREVIOUS ACTION

No Previous Action

BACKGROUND

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (“RSIC”) is a sovereign federally-recognized Indian Tribe. Its tribal government includes an elected chairman and an eight-member council which serves as its governing body in accordance with RSIC’s Constitution. The constitution gives the Tribal Council the authority and responsibility to raise revenues, incur expenses, enter into contracts, borrow money, administer funds, purchase land, and provide services for the general welfare and benefit of RSIC’s tribal and community members.

In the first quarter of 2023, the Director of WCRAS began discussions with RSIC’s police department to discuss potential services desired by the Tribe that WCRAS could provide. By way of background, WCRAS does not have any obligation to provide animal control or sheltering services to the Tribe. Persons residing within the boundaries of the Reservation do not pay the 3 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation that is charged to residents of Washoe County to fund WCRAS’s operations and its animal shelter. In recognition that WCRAS’s assistance with animal control and sheltering services would involve considerable time from WCRAS’s staff and resources from WCRAS’s operation, the Tribe has agreed to compensate WCRAS for its cost in assisting with the matters specified in the attached interlocal agreement.

After multiple conversations, the parties agreed that WCRAS will provide certain animal control and sheltering services for the benefit of the TRIBE. Such services include:

- Impoundment of stray/lost dogs and cats found on Reservation property;
- Work to identify the owners of stray/lost dogs and cats;
- Temporary board and care to such dogs and cats, including veterinary services when applicable, for a five-day minimum stray hold period;
- Disposition services for unclaimed dogs and cats via adoption through releasing agencies and/or euthanasia, as necessary;
- Quarantine services for dogs and cats that have bitten a person;
- Safehold services for dogs and cats in the event of an owner’s death;
- Emergency assistance (upon WCRAS’s availability) by WCRAS field officers, to assist in the capture of stray/lost dogs located on Reservation property and dogs that have bitten a person and require quarantine impoundment, as well as the removal and/or transport of such dogs to the WCRAS’s shelter;
- Outreach services, as agreed to by both parties, to include yearly vaccination services for Reservation residents.

In consideration of WCRAS's services, the Tribe has agreed to pay the costs and fees set forth in Exhibit A. WCRAS believes that the approval of this interlocal agreement will result in better outcomes for animals in our community and better service delivery for person's residing in our community.

Once approved by the Board of County Commissioners, the interlocal agreement will be taken before the Tribal Council on September 11, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

The TRIBE will be assessed a fee for costs and services rendered by WCRAS, as set forth in Exhibit A of the Interlocal Agreement. Funds generated from this agreement will be incorporated into WCRAS's general operating budget, cost center 500000 G/L Code 135100.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve an interlocal agreement between the Reno-Sparks Indian colony ("RSIC") and Washoe County, by and through Washoe County Regional Animal Services ("WCRAS") with a term of three years, to allow WCRAS to provide certain animal control and sheltering services for the benefit of the TRIBE, with costs to be borne by RSIC as specified in Exhibit A. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Director of WCRAS to approve and execute annual addendums with amendments to Exhibit A (Costs & Fees) and Article 11 (Notices), as necessary.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

I move to approve the interlocal agreement between Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and Washoe County, by and through Washoe County Regional Animal Services, with a term of three years; and authorize the Chair to execute the agreement. I further move to authorize the Director of WCRAS to approve and execute annual addendums with amendments to Exhibit A (Costs & Fees) and Article 11 (Notices), as necessary.

Attachments

Attachment A: Interlocal Agreement between RSIC and Washoe County