

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Honorable Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

FROM: Tad Stone, Director
Department of Emergency Services

DATE: March 5, 2020

SUBJECT: Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County Florida Inc., and the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners

It is respectfully requested that the information contained herein be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at the next scheduled meeting.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

On April 18, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners entered into a contract with the Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County Florida Inc., to provide animal shelter services. The current contract is due to expire on April 30, 2020. The Society does not desire to extend the contract, however they have agreed to enter into a temporary six-month Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue to provide animal shelter services for Indian River County. The draft MOU is included for Board consideration and to begin discussions with the Humane Society of Vero Beach for the housing of animals for a limited period of time.

Staff is also requesting guidance from the board as to the direction for establishing an inhouse sheltering program for those animals that would be picked up by the County Animal Control Officers. This would only be for those animals brought to the shelter by Animal Control and not for owner surrender initially.

FUNDING:

In the event the Board approves the six-month term, Indian River County shall pay a flat monthly fee of \$36,000 for the services described in the MOU, equaling a total of \$216,000. The average monthly cost paid to the Humane Society to date in the current fiscal year is \$26,363. Although the six-month term is slightly more than the currently budgeted monthly cost of \$30,879, the existing budget may be able to absorb the increase cost due to the current monthly expenses running under budget.

If the Board considers the establishment of an Animal Services facility for those animals secured by Animal Control Officers, the estimated cost of such services as well as the capital infrastructure are included in the backup. A budget amendment will be necessary to fund these expenses if

approved by the Board. Funding in the amount of \$1,108,333 will be provided from General Fund/Cash Forward Oct 1st for the remainder of the current fiscal year, beginning May1st. After the initial capital investments are made, staff estimates the annual cost of operating an Animal Services facility to be \$586,460.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is requesting guidance from the Board to either enter into discussions with the Humane Society of Vero Beach to house animals for a period of up to six months and to return a MOU for Board consideration at a future meeting, or to make the necessary preparations for the purchase of the necessary buildings, staffing and equipment necessary for establishing a County run and maintained Animal Services facility.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Humane Society Vero Beach & Indian River County Florida Inc., and Indian River County Board of County Commissioners
2. Estimated Expenses Spreadsheet