

SEE MINUTES
FOR MOTION
JUL 17 2014 KHR/S



To: Mayor Teresa Jacobs
From: Jennifer Thompson, District 4 Commissioner
Date: July 16, 2014
Subject: Funding Request for Animal Services Back to Nature Contract

Orange County has an ongoing contract with the Back to Nature (BTN) Wildlife Refuge and Education Center in Southeast Orange County in the amount of \$20,000 annually. This contract allows Orange County Animal Services and Code Enforcement to utilize BTN for injured, sick and orphaned animals not otherwise cared for as part of our regular services. BTN cares for these animals indefinitely if they are unable to be released back into the wild. Additionally, Orange County 311 refers citizen inquiries directly to BTN as we are unable to process these animals within the Animal Services department.

As you know, BTN has recently expanded operations from a cramped facility on east Colonial Drive to a new facility adjacent to the Split Oak Preserve in Southeast Orange County. As part of this expansion, they now have the space to accept and care for additional animals. It is my understanding that Animal Services had intended to request additional funds for BTN but for whatever reason, they did not make it into this year's proposed budget.

Therefore, I am requesting we add an additional \$10,000 annually for the remaining five years of the BTN contract.

I look forward to discussing this at tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you.

Cc: Board of County Commissioners
Ajit Lalchandani, County Administrator
Jeff Newton, County Attorney
Dr. George Ralls, Acting Deputy County Administrator
Eric Gassman, Chief Accountability Officer
Randy Singh, Division Manager, Office of Management and Budget
Lori Cunniff, Division Manager, Environmental Services
Dil Luther, Division Manager, Animal Services

COMMISSIONER JENNIFER THOMPSON, DISTRICT 4

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