From: Linda Gottwald (gottwald.linda@yahoo.com)
To: sufa1@bellsouth.net;
Date: Tue, October 5, 2010 4:47:42 AM
Cc:
Subject: Fw:

— *Exhibit* —
(14)

----- Forwarded Message ----
From: Linda Gottwald <gottwald.linda@yahoo.com>
To: gotttwald.linda@yahoo.com
Sent: Tue, October 5, 2010 4:47:01 AM
Subject:

Shelter future probably history

By Steve Estes

Alleged improprieties in spending practices aside, the future of the relationship between Monroe County and Stand Up For Animals, animal control provider for the middle Keys, appears bleak, says County Commissioner George Neugent.

County staff Wednesday morning intended to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that the contract with SUFA be terminated in 15 days, but the item wasn't placed on the agenda prior to the deadline.

Because of that, it took agreement from all five commissioners to add the item for action. Commissioner Mario DiGennaro said he would not grant that approval, forcing the item to be heard for discussion purposes only.

SUFA's contract was extended for 90 days last month to give the county time to look at other options when the provider asked for a 24 percent increase to continue to run the Marathon and Big Pine Key animal shelters.

One of those options was an audit of the financial dealings of all three contractors.

Two weeks ago, County Clerk Danny Kolhage released some preliminary findings of the SUFA audit that alleges Director Linda Gottwald used shelter money to pay her personal rent and utility bills on more than one occasion. The audit also alleges that Gottwald used shelter money for airline tickets, to pay legal fees for another shelter she plans to open in Michigan and to pay a staff member to drive a county-owned vehicle to that location in Mighigan to deliver dogs from the Monroe County shelter, as well as other issues.

Upon release of those findings, county legal staff sought an injunction to freeze the assets of SUFA.

"We were concerned that funds that could be county funds were becoming comingled with (other) funds," said Assistant County Attorney Bob Shillinger.

News-Barometer

Marathon-Sunshine Key-Big Pine-Ramrod-Summerland-Cudjoe, Sugarloaf & Big Torch Key-Bahia

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Shelter future probably history

BY STEVE ESTES

Alleged improprieties in spending decisions make the future of the old county animal shelter, Monroe County and Stand Up for Animals, which operates provider for the mobile Keys animal...

7 vie for 2 board

BY STEVE ESTES

Voters will go to the polls Tuesday to decide who will be part of the five-member elected board that sets policy and direction for the Monroe County School System.

Monica Nickelson and Taryn Wright separate fresh on Sugarloaf Key as lobster season opens in the Florida Keys...