

Utilities Committee

Tues, Dec 13, 2022 4:30PM

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Utilities Committee

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Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:00

All right, I am calling to order the utilities committee for Tuesday, December 13. Roll call membership. All members are present, and we'll do roll call starting from the left.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 00:09

Vaya Jones district 10.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:11

Brad Firkus district three.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:13

Vered Meltzer district two.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 00:15

Alex Schultz district nine.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 00:16

Chad Doran district 15.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:18

Thank you. And we need an approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. 22-1533 to approve the October 25. Utilities committee meeting minutes.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 00:28

Motion to approve.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:29

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:30

All right. We have a motion and a second. Any comments or discussion? All right. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? Seeing none, those are approved five zero. We have no public hearings or appearances today. We do have a number of action items.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:47

22-1534 award 2023A stormwater consulting services contract for 2023 stormwater management plan reviews to Brown and Caldwell in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:02

Move to approve.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 01:03

Second.

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Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:04

All right. And we do have a memo on the agenda here. Any comments from directors or comments or questions from the committee? Go ahead. What's your mic?

Unknown Speaker (Possibly Pete Neuberger, Staff Engineer, who was listed in memos) 01:18

Maybe just stop for all these action items. And I believe all five of them are ours. So, we've prepared memos for all. So basically, we aren't planning on doing any presentations, but if you have any questions related to the content of the memos or the items, we'd be happy to answer those.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:31

Thank you very much. Do we have any questions? All right, let's go ahead and take a vote on this one. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? There are none. So, five zero recommendation for approval on that one.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:46

22-1535 award of 2023 B stormwater consulting services contract for 2023 stormwater management plan reviews to RA Smith in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 02:01

Move to approve.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 02:02

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 02:03

All right. We have a motion and a second. Any questions on that item? Seeing none, let's go ahead and vote All in favor. Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? Are none. That is also recommended for approval five zero.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 02:18

Moving down we have 22-1536 award 2022 G stormwater consulting services for the French road urbanization study with McMahon Associates Incorporated in an amount not to exceed \$46,354.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 02:36

Move to approve.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 02:37

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 02:39

All right. Any comments or questions on this one? Seeing none, let's go ahead and vote. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? Again, there are none. That is recommended for approval five to zero.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 02:54

22-1550 amend 2021 D stormwater consulting services contract for lightning drive extension final design with RA Smith in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 03:08

Move to approve.

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Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 03:09

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:11

All right. Any comments or questions on this one? All in favor? Aye. No opposed or abstentions. That is also five zero recommendation to approve.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:24

And the last action item 22-1556 approval to sole source and award 2022 J contract for Conkey pond regional pond model update in an amount not to exceed \$36,910.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 03:40

Move to approve.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 03:41

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:42

All right. Any comments or questions on this one? Seeing none all in favor? Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? There are none. That one is also recommended for approval Five to zero.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:57

We have three information items. The first one is 22-1537 2023 joint chemical consortium quotation awards. Any comments? Director Shaw, what's your mic? Go ahead.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 04:14

Thank you, Chairperson Meltzer. Chemicals are something that out in the market have gone up dramatically. So, I did want to kind of give an overview. While this does give us that we had a competitive quoting process, these chemicals were planned to, or during our budget process, we planned to raise the budget by 12% for 2023 over 2022. Year over year, we wanted to go up that. Unfortunately, it went up 18%. If we were to just take the average what the increase was, it was 18%; however, we use some chemicals more than others, so I projected yearly usage at—and then add a unit cost. And the ones that we use the most (which are calcium oxide, ferric chloride, and potassium permanganate) they all went up 30%. So, we actually went up 27%. And so, instead of \$200,000, it's \$400,000. So, we had planned for \$200,000. But the actuality is \$400,000.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 05:12

To meet this, there is no working around not adding chemicals to the process. So, it's a cost of doing business. We have looked at our capital plan and then our operational plan, operational plan. And in our operational plan, we have some tank maintenance, that is kind of large dollar just happens to be—it's for our clear wells. We're looking at whether or not we can defer that project by a year or two so that we can meet budget. So that's kind of our plan. We're going to continue to monitor it. The accountant Kelli Rindt, will continue to monitor it and give us kind of a status through the quarters where we are so that it doesn't get away from us. But I just wanted to bring that up.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:58

And what the—what sort of impact will this deferment have? If we are able to defer it what will that mean for us?

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Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 06:04

The unfortunate thing is, it needs to be done. It was part of a regulatory inspection that was submitted to the state. We can probably defer it. But we only take these tanks down once every five years. If they give us a year or two postponement, it means that we might have to disinfect that tank one extra time, which would be like \$5000-\$10,000, that will just be a waste. You know, so we'll have to do the inspection regardless of whether or not we fix something, then we'll have to take it down again, in a couple of years, when we could have waited five years. I don't think they'll give us a five-year deferment, do you know what I mean? And we will check. I mean, if there is a possibility that they'll allow us to defer the maintenance, we would do it for the five years, and not have those costs. Right? But we have to wait and see. So, this is relatively new.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 06:55

Are there any sorts of grants out there specifically for the fact that there are these sorts of hardships popping up?

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 07:02

No, no, I don't think so. Not for this not for an operational cost. No, I don't believe so. And it's not to say that prices won't come down. We saw this with steel. I think I shared this with steel, where you hit a high, it had tripled in costs, and then came down. And I think everybody remembers like plywood and lumber at, you know, the big box stores was double the price. And it's a supply and demand thing. So

Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 07:28

So, this is kind of an effect of where a lot of things are. It's not specifically chemicals are going to raising prices stay there.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 07:35

No.

Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 07:35

Forever.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 07:36

Well, hopefully market right. But with competition, right with our system, right? There'll be competition and over overtime prices should come down. I mean, just look at gasoline today. We're under three, I think it's under \$3 a gallon. Right? So, I mean, there's—we have to wait and see. I can't I can't predict exactly.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:59

Aldersperson Schultz.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 08:00

Thanks. Director Shaw, could you help me understand the numbers again. You just stated that the increase was in some places 27% And maybe up into the 30s for the chemical increases, but then you said you budgeted for \$200,00 but you now need 400,000? That's 100%.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 08:15

Again, I can't quite hear your last...

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 08:17

The—you stated that you budgeted \$200,000, but—

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Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 08:19

Extra

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 08:19

You're discussing now \$400,000. Oh, extra? Okay.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 08:22

Yeah, we—

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 08:22

The actual budget for the chemicals is what?

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 08:26

The actual budget is like, 1.3.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 08:28

Okay.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 08:29

We put in an additional \$200,000, which represented a 12% increase. The actual cost came in, you know, an extra \$400,000. So, \$1.7 million was what the bids came in, when I—and I had to project everything out there. So that's typical usage of all those chemicals. And then it ended up being the unit costs were the greatest at 30% for the three largest chemicals that we use. So, it just ended up being 27% increase year over year in what we're projecting. It's a lot of projecting.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 09:02

Aldersperson Firkus.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 09:11

Thank you chair. So even though the prices are higher, that's—we're not seeing any problems though, with acquiring the chemicals, correct? This isn't a matter of like there's a shortage and we can't get them and that's also part of what's driving? Are we able to secure what we need?

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 09:26

Right now, we're able to secure. It's been unusual; the last year was unusual. We had—even though this consortium locks in costs for the year, we had companies that walked away a couple of companies that walked away and said, "we just can't afford to throw money away because we're locked into this. We'll lose your business." Right? And then there were others that wanted to break and do quarterly, so we ended up doing that with like sodium hypochlorite. They just didn't have it. There were there—it just ended up being we had to it was the last vendor, right. So, I mean, you ended up playing to whatever the conditions of the market are. I'd never seen that actually in like the past 20 years. We just stuck. We talked to legal, our accountant. Nope, we're not moving, you know, but it was very, a very unusual year last year.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 10:15

And actually, because of the consortium, we're locked in, and in whatever 80% of the chemicals, we didn't have that. And they wanted to increase. And we told them no, and it worked for 80% of the time. It just didn't work for 20% of the time. So, we were probably receiving value out of the consortium last year, that wasn't really

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realized, until you see something like this for this year. And again, we decided to go one year, in one-year increments, because we didn't want to lock in for two years for exactly this reason. Market prices could come down. And then we want to be able to realize them when they're coming down.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 10:50

Thank you. Yeah. Thank you.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 10:52

Thank you, Director. Any other comments or questions on this item?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 10:57

All right, moving down. 22-1600, Wisconsin state laboratory of hygiene COVID report.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 11:06

Yep. So, I got some good news. the Wisconsin State lab of hygiene is actually going to start to pay us. It's not a large amount, but for our ability to work with them. And even though it's not costing us anything in materials, or consumables or anything, it does cost us a little bit of staff time to be able to produce the samples to send to the Wisconsin State level of hygiene. So, they're setting up a little beta test and how to receive money, because they're not in that business to send out checks to municipalities or POTWs. So that's kind of good news.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 11:39

Awesome.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 11:40

And the report, I just figured because it hadn't been off for a while. It's nice to see the report as well. And you can see that while testing is down, incidents or rates are up and that's probably just due to people aren't going to get testing done. And it's not being reported through health departments in the state.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:00

Any comments or questions on this one?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:05

All right, then we have 22-1358 monthly report for October 2022, the water distribution and meter team monthly report.

Unknown Speaker (Possible Pete Neuberger, Staff Engineer) 12:17

Nothing earth shattering to report here. As you can see the—for this particular time period, we're actually down a little bit from this time last year, which is good to see. If you look year to date, we're pretty close to where we were last year. And the only other thing to really note on this particular you'll notice that it's kind of consistent that for the breaks that we experienced during this period, if you notice the vintage of that pipe, it's all pretty much the same 19—right around 1960 cast iron, which is not surprising. That's just been a problematic vintage of pipe that we've been dealing with for many years. So.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:52

Thank you. Yeah. Last month, it was one less than the previous year and this month it's—we've got seven compared to 10 in October last year. So, I think that that's certainly good. Maybe it's saying that we have detected some of the more serious places that were failing more regularly in the past and seems like encouraging data. Any? Go ahead, Alderson Schultz.

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Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 13:24

I guess I'd echo that. It's nice to see the estimated durations are relatively low. I mean, with the exception of the 290 days, but catching a 1/32-inch crack is probably pretty challenging. So good to see those numbers and those hours I guess kind of minimum compared to some of the ones we've seen in past. So, credit to the department for finding those.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 13:49

Thank you. Anyone have anything else?

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 13:56

Move to adjourn.

Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 13:57

Second.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 13:59

All in favor? Aye. Any opposed or abstaining?