

Tues, Mar 21, 2023

Utilities Committee

Tues, Mar 21, 2023 4:30PM • 15:23

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:00

—the utilities committee meeting for Tuesday March 21. Roll called membership will start from my left.

Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 00:06

Vaya Jones district 10.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:08

Brad Firkus, district three.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:10

Vered Meltzer district two.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 00:12

Alex Schultz district nine.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 00:14

Chad Doran district 15.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:16

Let it show that we are all present.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:18

Now we need an approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. 23-0273 to approve the march 7 meeting minutes.

Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 00:24

Move to approve.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:26

Second.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:27

All right. We have a motion and a second. Any comments or anything? Seeing none all in favor? Aye. All opposed, or abstaining? Seeing none, those minutes are recommended for approval five zero.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:44

We have no public hearings or appearances today. Moving into action items 23-0291 award unit R 23 chemical root foaming of sanitary sewers to Duke's root control incorporated in an amount not to not to exceed \$25,000.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:02

Move to approve.

Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 01:02

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:04

All right. And anyone from staff want to make comments on this? What's your mic? Director what? One? Go ahead, Director Block.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 01:16

Thank you Chair. I just wanted to point out that this is a contract we do every other year. So, this is the year to do root foaming. And the bid prices came in slightly higher than 2021, but we expected a slight increase.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:32

Alright, any? Go ahead, Alderson Schultz.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 01:37

Just curious to know what the chemical compound that is being used. And where we—do we ask that question of the contract when we source these or request bids for quote?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 01:53

So, I can check into the specifications within the contract to see if that's listed. And we can reach out to the contractor as well. I'll have to circle back with you on it though.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 02:01

That'd be appreciated. Did you have a sense of how much of this we're doing with the root foaming. That seems like a relatively small amount, this contract. So, I imagine it's not a huge process. But, is this sort of a spa treatment situation with this system?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 02:17

It's based on the sewer televising footage that we take the year prior and put together the areas that need addressing. So, I can ask our engineer, Chad Weyenberg, how much of the total system that was televised is this a proportion of, and give you a sense of scope that way.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 02:37

And then I guess the last one is just for historical context is mechanical means of cleaning roots not cost effective or as effective as a chemical treatment? Is that why we do the chemical versus a mechanical abatement of root issues?

Unknown Staffer 02:58

So, I believe that with the root foaming, there's still a mechanical component involved. I think this, this helps to reduce the strength of the roots that you're trying to get out there to assist in the physical removal.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 03:11

So, it's like cutting buckthorn and then treating it essentially with glyphosate. So, we're doing the same thing with a root system, not harming the trees, but just trying to keep it from continuing to get into the sewer system itself.

Unknown Staffer 03:22

Yep. So, this is like pruning back the very small branches, if you will—the extremity of the road system.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 03:30

Thank you for that information.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:35

Thank you. Any other comments or questions? All right, seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All in favor. Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? There are none. That's recommended five zero for approval.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:48

23-0304 award purchase of primary digester circulation pump from Crane Engineering in the amount of \$27,774.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:00

Move to approve.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 04:01

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 04:02

Thank you.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 04:03

Director three.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 04:04

All right. Go ahead, Director Shaw.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 04:06

Just a couple items. One is that we have a turnaround time now—or, at least as of recently—that they're really extended. We used to wait six weeks for a pump, or a part of a pump, and now it's like six months. And the committee was just recently authorized or did authorize the blending pump. And that was to save us in all like four months' worth of time, which I'm really appreciative of. But that's what this has to do.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 04:35

We need one on the shelf. The pumps are going to wear out. It's just a matter of time. And not having a replacement just hinders our operation and puts us at risk. So not only this pump, but later on, I'll be bringing in a month another pump that's critical to the operation just because of turnaround times. And again, they wear out. We're going to end up buying them. It's just a matter of time. So, there's nothing really lost to the utility. We're just reducing risk.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 04:57

We did receive competitive quotes with this. And the big part is not to modify—if you if you were curious about the memo is—we didn't want to modify the piping. As soon as you modify the piping, it doubles the cost. So, we asked that contractors provide an in-kind pump.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:13

Thank you I—with the turnaround times, I definitely think it's important and prudent for us to be proactive like that. So, appreciate that. Alderson Doran.

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 05:23

Thank you. Director Shaw. Just a question, I guess related to that. Certainly appreciate, you know, the lead time here. Was were these—was this a purchase we had already planned in the budget for this year anyway. And you're just bringing it forward earlier?

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 05:36

No, we hadn't planned on this or the raw sludge pump. One of it was really, that criticality of that blending pump that it just made us aware that we've got to wait six months for something that would normally take six weeks. We're fine with trying to work around and taking risk of six weeks, but it's a whole nother animal, if you will, waiting six months.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 05:56

So yeah, it really came about with the purchase of the last pump, and just realizing how at risk we were or taking on that risk. And for no real, real reason for these types of pumps, because they're continuous duty kinds of pumps. So, they're going to wear out; it's just a matter of time. So having it on the shelf and we can change it out within 24 hours just reduces that that risk. So yeah.

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 06:20

Great. Thank you.

Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 06:21

Thank you. Any other comments or questions? All right, let's go ahead and vote on this one. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed or abstentions? There are none. Five zero recommendation for approval.

Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 06:36

23-0300 award the sole source purchase of secondary clarifier algae sweep system from Ford Hall company incorporated in the amount of \$131,040 with a 15% contingency of \$19,656 for a project total not to exceed \$150,696.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:59

Move to approve.

Alderman Vaya Jones (District 10) 07:00

Second.

Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:01

All right, we have a motion and a second. And Director Shaw did you have comments on this?

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 07:06

Just real quick. What this system does, this Ford Hall system does, is cleans our weirs. There's about 600 linear feet of weir that has to be clean. And that's where the water cascades out of the tank. If we don't have that mechanical cleaning, the hydraulics of the unit are upset, and we won't get the efficiency. And we'll end up putting more pollutants out into the—out into the Fox River, which we don't want to do. So, we can either mechanically have them clean with an operation like this that just goes along for the ride with the existing equipment or physically go in and take care of the weirs themselves. And so, I just did a quick calculation. And it's about \$500,000 worth of labor in today's dollars that we're going to avoid. So, and as time goes by over the 15-20 year life of this equipment, it's obviously going to save much more in labor. So, it's a it's a productive use of a mechanical system. Thank you.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:58

Thank you. Any comments or questions on this one? Alderson Schultz?

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 08:03

Yeah, just when you see Deputy—or Director Stempa, I just thank him for the background information, the quotation in the in the justification that was included in our package. It's really helpful to be able to read these things through with, you know, in layman's terms and understand what we're talking about when we're looking at these big numbers and things that we're like, "What are you talking about?" So, we really appreciate those breakdowns. It helps us a lot. Thank you.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 08:28

Thank you. All right. Are we ready to vote on this one? All in favor? Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? There are none. So, five, zero, that is also recommended for approval.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 08:42

Moving down 23-0301, sole source engineering services contract to McMahon as part of Phase Two belt filter press equipment upgrades project in the amount of \$162,000 with a 15% contingency of \$24,300 for a project total not to exceed \$186,300.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 09:05

Move to approve.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 09:06

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 09:07

All right. And any comments?

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 09:10

Yeah, additionally to the memo, you might wonder, "Well, why is there \$162,000 in engineering if you split the project up?" So, I just want to go through why that is? First of all, it's still good value when you look at the ratio of engineering to construction cost. So that's just a general way for you to sit there and you know, decide, "geez, are we getting good value?" So, 10 to 15% for integrated systems—like we're coming into this room, we're going to change a whole bunch of stuff, but we have to feed into the electrical, you know, you know what I'm talking about? So that's an integrated—going into and using some of the systems and not. And that's what we're doing. So, we're well within those ratios.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 09:47

But additionally, when you split a project like this—and we had to split the project because the preliminary numbers that we were using from a year and a half to two years ago, the construction costs have far exceeded what those original construction estimates were from contractors and from the engineer. So, when they do their estimating, it's old. And I think we've had this conversation before. So, I'm not going to read, replay that.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 10:09

But when you split, split it up and add to it, now you've got the additional work that has to be engineered. And you've got two design and bid packages. So, you have to go out for different bidding. And the field services went from one year to two years, right? Because they're two—in two separate project years. So that's kind of the

rationale for the costs. It's two separate projects, two separate bid bidding events over two separate years, but still provides great value.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 10:40

Thank you. Any comments or questions? Seeing none, let's go ahead and vote. All in favor? Aye. Seeing no abstentions, or nay votes, that is also recommended five, zero.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 10:56

And our last action item 23-0302 Sole Source engineering services contract to McMahon as part of the 2023 digester piping and heat exchanger replacement project in the amount of \$85,300 with a 15% contingency of \$12,795 for a project total not to exceed \$98,095.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 11:21

Move to approve.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 11:22

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 11:23

All right, we have a motion and a second, and Director Shaw did you have a comment?

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 11:26

Yep. If I could just summarize this because this is this may be a little bit confusing. Really, there's three heat exchangers that exist for the digester system. One was already to be performed at 35,000. We want to add the two additional, and that would bring it up to the 85,500—or the 85,000 will cover the two larger ones, which are much more complex. And they're the actual heat exchangers. They're not the preliminary heat exchangers. But this is the engineering for that. I don't know if that makes sense to you. But they're what keep our digesters at 95 degrees Fahrenheit—a lot of piping, valve trees, big, bulky equipment. So that's what it is. That's what the cost is.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 11:26

I know it gets a little bit worried about how we had to stop this project start that project and architectural stuff. The architectural stuff, by the way, is like painting and that sort of thing. So, when he talks about how he had to cleave certain parts of a project out, that's what Chris is talking about—or what Deputy Director Stempa was talking about.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:23

Thank you.

Director Chris Shaw (Utilities) 12:23

He had pretty good value.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:26

Great. And any comments or questions? All right, let's go ahead and take a vote. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed or oppo—or abstentions, or none? So, five, zero. This one is also approved.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:42

And we have one information item 23-0297 monthly report for February 2023, water distribution and meter team monthly report. Any comments or questions?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:56

I just want to comment that, again, I'm very encouraged by the water main break report where we have had only half as many water main breaks at this time as we had last year. And as far as the year-to-date trending, we're trending even lower than 50%. So, I think that the situation is turning around. Alderson Schultz.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 13:25

Yeah, I guess I just toss that back to staff. How do you guys feel about the water mains as they are and how we're doing here? You know, we're always asking the questions. "Can we do better? Are we doing better?" Feels like we are. I guess I'm looking for maybe your side or perspective?

Unknown Staffer 13:42

Sure. So how that saying goes? Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good. So, you know, we're doing a lot. But I think this year, the winter we had played a huge role in the lower number here. So, there hasn't been much frost in the ground. In some areas, no frost at all. So, we feel that was definitely a big player in this. So. But yeah, we're working hard proactively to find leaks. So, you know, sometimes we'll see some ebb and flows with this report too. But yep, we're happy that we're at half or less than we were last year, because last year, this time, we were pretty worried where we were going to end up at year end.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 14:27

So that—I'm just looking at the report. And since we had some time that—like the four- and five-inch holes, those are things that they just kind of happen as a blowout and there's no way to see those prior to them happening. It's just the age of those cast pipes and it happens and you catch them when you see them essentially?

Unknown Staffer 14:43

Yeah, usually once it gets to that, where you have a large hole like that, it'll typically surface in a hurry. And you'll find it probably started as a little pinhole leak and then the pressure got to it over time and blew out the side of the pipe.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 14:58

Thank you

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 15:00

Thank you. Any other comments or questions? All right, seeing none, I'll take a motion for adjournment.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 15:08

Motion.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 15:10

Do we have a second?

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 15:11

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 15:12

All right, we have a motion and a second to adjourn. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? There are none. We are adjourned. Thank you very much, everyone.