

Tue, Jul 08, 2025

Item 25-0782: Award AWWTP Digester Cleaning and Inspection Support contract to Staab Construction Corporation in the amount of \$122,600 with a 15% contingency of \$18,390 for a total not to exceed \$140,990

Utilities Committee

Tue, Jul 08, 2025 4:30PM

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:05

We have no public hearings or appearances today, and we have one action item, 25-0782, award Appleton wastewater treatment plant digester cleaning and inspection support contract to Staab construction corporation in the amount of \$122,600 with a 15% contingency of \$18,390 for a total not to exceed \$140,990.

Alderson Josh Lambrecht (District 1) 01:31

So, moved.

Adrian Stancil-Martin (District 11) 01:33

Second.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:35

All right, we have a motion and two seconds. All right, Director Stempa, what mic do you have? All right, go ahead.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 01:46

So just for background, this is a 2025 capital and O&M project. It was discussed last year when we brought Donahue under contract as part of a sole source. Donahue and Associates was part of the last inspection back in 2010 when we took the vessels down, did a cursory inspection, and incorporate some improvements, replace some things.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 02:09

This project's to initiate the O and M part, right? And O and M, that's why it's at this committee jurisdiction, to give us an idea of what needs to be done exactly. There were three options looked at preliminarily with through Donohue, three different approaches, one being this one, a more simplified version. Let's get in there and see what we have to work with, rather than presuming and having a bunch of built in alternates that could be very costly, could be complex in both in the bidding process and administering thereafter. So, we thought the best approach was, let's get in there, take a look, see what we have to work with as an O and M function, and then once that is done, presuming there's no substantial repairs, and if we are, we'll be ready to pivot on that too.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 02:54

This will give us an idea what we need to go forth next year in which each vessel would be taken down. We're hoping that the initial inspection that we're planning on doing, probably next month through September, is going to reveal some nominal corrosion—we hope—and then from that point, we'll devise a plan. And again, if there's something more that needs to be remedied right away, we will remedy it right away, and that could set into action some other steps maybe this year.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 03:22

We're hoping, at a minimum, worst case scenario is we have to adjust the budget a little bit for the existing dollars that we have, or maybe would need for next year to launch that project. We're trying to find a sweet

spot both—the timing of the inspection this year is done in warm weather, so we don't have to consume natural gas because biogas would be curtailed. We can't fire boilers to heat building in process. Obviously you want air conditioner right now. Nothing—there's not a lot of demand right now, obviously. So, this is a window of time you want to do it.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 03:54

It will affect hauled waste to a degree. We can still function the hauled waste program, but we have to curtail some of the wastes because we can't—our hydraulic retention time with one less digester, you don't have the detention that you we need to regulatorily. So, we do have to have some of those folks back off a little bit until we get this done. Next year would be the same thing. They've been informed of that. They're also informed that the next step would be to have a longer project that will be impactful both to revenue and treatment, but it's a necessity. We have to get in there and do this work.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 04:30

So again, this is, this is the first step, this work. We had hand selected contractors that had a familiarity with the plant and/or had worked on the digesters before. This is a complex take down. It will take time. It will be done in conjunction with our operations and maintenance staff. And so, we just didn't want to go out there and do a public bid, which we have the flexibility and do in this case. This is maintenance work. And so, we just had a select few contractors that were invited. Unfortunately, the one that didn't bid missed the mandatory pre bid meeting, but we weren't going to deviate from that, so they missed it, unfortunately, but we still have two very good contractors, and we got a pretty solid price.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:14

Thank you. Do we have any comments or questions from the committee? Director, what is the estimate for the revenue impact with the hauled waste?

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 05:25

I want to say it depends. It depends on the length of time. So, we've assumed a nominal decrease, and it depends based on the characteristics of the waste, right? So, there's—it gets into a tiered rate structure based on the strength of the waste. We have to take some of those higher strength wastes, but the quantities of those tend to be less. So, it would be—we're estimating approximately a 15 to 20% decrease over the month and a half it's going to be down.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 05:56

In the meantime, we're actually looking at trying to divert some, where some of these folks, if they don't have to go somewhere else, and they may not want to go somewhere else, can we accommodate it by taking it to a different part of the plant that won't affect the digesters? But is that a higher cost? Because it's in the liquids train, and the way the biology works, you're producing more biomass using a little bit more chemical, air. So, we're sensitive to that, especially during the time of year when aeration, our biological treatment in there facility—those big tanks that pump air through them—that creates a higher demand. Those are 1000 horsepower bore that we were operating in that. So, we don't want to slam that at 100% if we don't have to. It's a cost for that too. But we're weighing that all out in the meantime and—but estimating about a 20% 15% deduct, well, from what we'd expect this time of year.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 06:48

Thank you.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 06:50

And the budget, both this year and next year, reflect that, both in terms of the revenue and the projected natural gas consumption over that window of time that we anticipate the work to take place. Just don't have all the numbers in my head right now. I got a lot of budget numbers in my head; that one's not coming to coming to the top.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:07

We'll see all those numbers soon enough.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 07:09

Yep, yeah.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:10

All right. Well, thank you very much. Let's bring it back up here for a vote. All in favor say aye. Aye. Any opposed? Any abstaining? There are none. That is recommended for approval, four zero.