

WATER COMMITTEE
AUGUST 28, 2013
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman
Brian Cardoza
Steve Rapson
Tony Parrott
Commissioner Steve Brown

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

David Jaeger
Dennis Davenport

GUEST:

Stephen Hogan, WASA

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON AUGUST 28, 2013.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Brian Cardoza seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 24, 2013. There was no opposition.

II. MIEX UPDATE.

Mr. Parrott reported that this is still ongoing; we do not have the information yet. He suggested delaying this item until the next meeting.

III. SANITARY SURVEY UPDATE.

Mr. Parrott reported that he and Dennis Davenport are working on this item. The deadline for EPD is September 9, 2013. Commissioner Steve Brown asked what the anticipated date for completion is. Mr. Davenport commented they hope to have a draft tomorrow. He is working on the violations side and Mr. Parrott is working on the deficiencies.

Mr. Rapson stated that he is trying to set up a meeting with EPD on September 6 to review it prior to us releasing. At this point they have not agreed to meet with us as agreed upon earlier in the process. He said if he gets a response to his final email, he will email it to everybody.

IV. WATER QUALITY UPDATE.

Mr. Parrott explained about the Town of Brooks water system that we are operating under a lease/ownership agreement; we wound up with a Notice of Violation for the lead and copper. He said that we sent out the notice; there was a

copy of the notice in the last Water Committee package. It is an every three year test, not annual. DNR could have notified us somewhere in that three years that they did not receive the sample in 2010, but they didn't.

Mr. Parrott went on to say that the Town of Brooks requested that he come down there next month for their meeting; he is going down there to explain to the mayor and town council what happened. The county water system has provided water in Brooks for a long time. When we first started providing water to Brooks the school was the biggest user and Brooks was having trouble supplying the school because they had a well. We have been providing county water all the way to downtown Brooks and as a wholesaler for Brooks for the entire period. The water quality for the Fayette County Water System met the lead and copper standard and we provided the water all the way downtown and then we have what amounts to 138 of our customers that are a subset because it is a different permit; but the same water.

Mr. Parrott went on to say that we are collecting the lead and copper samples this month, because this is the year for it to be done. The lab was collecting the samples last week and this week; we will have the results sometime in the near future. The state runs the test, so we are on whatever their schedule is to get the results back.

Commissioner Brown asked what was meant by the same water. Mr. Parrott explained that it is the same eight inch waterline that goes into town that we serve the school with that we serve the other 138 customers with. There is no difference in the water that goes into town that we are serving our customers with that we are serving their customers with. There is no difference in the water. The only difference is they have a separate permit, and the only reason they kept the permit was because of the local option sales tax because that is their biggest funding.

V. ANNUAL WATERLINE CONTRACT BID OPENING.

Mr. Jaeger distributed the bid tabulation to the group. He explained that the bid opening was yesterday for the annual contract for waterline extensions. We have done this since 2001. The purpose of this contract is to have a contractor on board for a one year period that the county can call on for short waterline extensions, repairs and other work that comes along that allow the county to proceed quickly without having to do a new bid every project. The bid form is set up with almost eighty different bid items anticipating what might occur in this coming year. We weight the bid price based on the work that we believe will be done. We identify about a third of these bid items and those are weighted at 75% of the weighted bid price. The remaining bid items are weighted at 25%. Based on the weighted bid price, the low bidder is Shockley Plumbing at \$454,362.50 and his total bid price is \$762,850.00 which is what the contract would be actually written for. In comparison, Shockley also had the contract for this past year; and their total bid price for last year was \$769,950.00. His price is essentially the same as it was for this past year. Shockley has been awarded this contract about half of the time over the past twelve years. We have had satisfactory performance with Shockley, they

are a local utility contractor and they respond quickly. He said they do fine work, so there is not an issue as far as experience and qualifications with Shockley. We had two bidders, in addition to Shockley, we had L. J. Inc. This is the first time they have ever bid on one of our projects. There were two other contractors that requested bid packages, but did not submit bids and they are listed on the upper right of page 1.

Commissioner Brown asked if we know why they didn't submit a bid. Mr. Jaeger replied that we just had this bid opening yesterday and he has not had a chance to contact them yet.

Mr. Rapson commented that it is interesting to note that they would be awarded this regardless of what priority you picked. They are actually low in all the priority weights. It looks like their unit costs across the board are slightly lower, except for fire hydrant assemblies.

Mr. Jaeger stated that the history of this project is that there tends to be a couple of contractors that have the size of their operation, and the proximity to Fayette County that are able to bid it competitively. They may get a job and put in 600 feet of eight inch pipe and then not get a job for a few months. Or they may get called at 10:00 p.m. because we have an emergency repair we need help with. They have to respond quickly, it is usually very short duration projects and then there may not be something for a while. The bigger contractors are interested in bigger projects, larger in diameter pipe, more pipe, etc.

Mr. Jaeger stated that he was explaining to Ted Burgess yesterday after the bid that if we had a project where we were bidding a couple of miles of twenty-four inch diameter waterline, we would have probably had a dozen bidders yesterday. We notify all the bidders that have bid past projects and it is just sort of a nitch project that they are not really as interested in as something they can come in, mobilize and stay here for a month or two and really get their forces involved. Because of the nature of that, Shockley Plumbing and Lantz Construction have the contractors that have really been able to give a competitive bid to us. In the last two years, Lantz did not bid; they have been out of state working, so they are not available to bid it.

Mr. Jaeger said based on all that information, the track record we have with Shockley, their performance this past year and in previous years, he has no problem recommending the award to Shockley.

Mr. Rapson stated that it looks like there are only five categories that they are over in; boring, jack, open trench, trench rock and then grassing, which are things they probably outsource, but even then they are only pennies on the dollar except for grassing. He asked when these are awarded if they are awarded based on the unit prices. Mr. Jaeger said yes, the contract would be written for the total base bid amount which would be \$762,850.00 and then anything that comes up within that

year; we would pay for based on unit prices. If we end up with twenty inch pipe that we put in, they would put it in at the twenty inch pipe price; if as we normally do it is an eight inch waterline extension for 600 feet or 1200 feet it would be at that, all the valves, the fire hydrants, etc. Any work that would come along would be at these unit prices. If Mr. Parrott has a repair that he needs assistance with, we have hourly rates, equipment rates, man power rates, etc. in addition to the material unit rates we have labor and equipment rates as well.

Mr. Rapson said that the only skewing that could be done in reaching an award would be in the quantities and in that particular case there are only five of them if we awarded to someone else. He said that he does not see, of the five reflected that any of that is unreasonable. He said that he agrees with Mr. Jaeger's assessment.

Mr. Jaeger stated that he tried to set up the estimated quantities based on our track record, what typically we put in. He said that you will notice that we have 5,000 feet of eight inch pipe and 100 feet of the bigger sizes, just so we can get a price. Last year's contract was for \$769,950.00.

Mr. Rapson questioned what this year's budget amount was, because we did a budget amendment last year. We took it from \$500,000.00 to \$700,000.00 last year and we would have to cap it at whatever our budget is this year.

Mr. Parrott explained that we had an eight inch meter that served an apartment complex that we needed to change out the vault, the meter and the backflow assembly all at one time. With our equipment and our staff; this is a go in, start in the morning, and finish the thing up in the afternoon so that you don't have all those people in the complex out of water when they come home. We need a company that has the equipment and the manpower that can do this type of thing. They do it well.

Mr. Jaeger stated that Shockley Plumbing is a local company. Kenny Shockley is a long time Fayette County resident and his son Robert is now chiefly running the operation. They have a second location in middle Georgia, and they have multiple crews. In the past when we have had lots of work, sometimes they would bring a second crew up from middle Georgia so they can keep up with the pace that we are giving them work.

Mr. Parrott explained that the short line extensions are normally the next person past the end of the line, and their well has run out. The goal is to get them water as quick as possible and this makes it quicker than it was in the past. It is still not as quick as you would think it should be since we have to have plans and everything, so it still takes a certain amount of time. But, we can get the next person at the end of the waterline fairly reasonably.

Mr. Jaeger explained that Mr. Parrott has an arrangement with EPD that if we are doing a line extension up to a half a mile, they allow Mallett Consulting to design the work without having to submit it to EPD for approval, most of these extensions are

600 feet or 1200 feet, so we can turn them around fairly quickly without having to send them to the state because they are familiar with how we do the projects and the design that we use. He said they try to get them out quickly so that as soon as the county gets a request for an extension, we can get the contractor out there as soon as possible.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners acceptance of the low bidder Shockley Plumbing for \$500,000.00 which is the budgeted amount for fiscal year 2014. Vice Chairman Conner seconded and there was no opposition. Mr. Rapson commented that Mr. Burgess should write this up for the Board of Commissioners agenda.

Mr. Rapson told Mr. Jaeger that Mr. Burgess is starting to understand how we operate as a county now that he is wired into all the purchasing process. He said that he appreciates his guiding hand in that regard. Mr. Jaeger said that it is no problem; he has been helpful to him, too.

WATER USAGE

Mr. Parrott commented that it has rained and the water usage is down.

REQUEST TO CLOSE LAKE MCINTOSH ROAD AND PARK FOR THE GREAT GEORGIA AIRSHOW

Mr. Rapson stated that we have a request from Ms. Angie Faulise, Director of the Great Georgia Airshow. She wants the county to close McIntosh Lake, the park and the access road October 11 from 3:00 p.m. to October 13 at 6:00 p.m. for the airshow. Their concern is the planes are going to be flying around and they don't want somebody over there at the park or driving down that road. He said that it seems like a reasonable request, he just did not know if this is something the Water System typically would weigh into or not. He would assume, since right now the park falls under the water services that we would say yes, we will probably close that and we would post it, with proper notices.

Comments were made that people will be thinking this will be a great place to see the airplanes, the clear zones and the golf course is usually closed for the airshow.

Stephen Hogan commented that they have restricted access to their plant. They make regular checks, coordinated with the air boss, but they have to go in and check their equipment, they will vacate the plant during that period of time.

Mr. Jaeger commented that this is the first time the lake has been open since the last airshow.

Mr. Hogan said this is their clear zone (crash zone), they are trying to save human life, even though they would destroy the plant if they were to crash.

Mr. Rapson said this could be put on an official agenda for an official vote. He said it seemed like a reasonable request. Mr. Hogan said they have direct contact to the flight director and the air boss if they have a problem. He said that he makes a call, they will stop or avert the planes, they go in, do their thing and come back out.

Mr. Rapson read the following: “the purpose of the request is due to the proximity of Lake McIntosh to the Great Georgia Airshow and a safety concern with airplanes in the area. She indicated that if the request to close the park was denied it could result in canceling the airshow.” Mr. Rapson went on to say that we could go ahead and put something on the web site to notify folks long before then.

The committee agreed to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Davenport asked if this roadway is accessing more than county property. Mr. Rapson said yes, it is; he will notify them as well. Two parcels are owned by The Phoenix that we will be talking to shortly because they want access. Those are folks that are trying to sell those properties. He said he will send an email to them when he copies Ms. Faulise and tell them we will more than likely close it to give them notification. Then when we officially do it, we will provide them notification, a professional courtesy.

Chairman Frisina commented that we can wait until the next meeting, but what other information would we have between now and two weeks from now. Mr. Rapson responded there would be nothing. Commissioner Brown commented it is just because it was not on the agenda, and we did not put it on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Rapson said he would send them an email, and as a formality put it on the next agenda.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:25 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 11th day of September, 2013.

Lisa Speegle