

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MARCH 4, 2020

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall Auditorium, 3rd Floor.

Mayor Jim Donchess, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Patricia Klee, Vice Chair
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

Members not in Attendance: Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu

Also in Attendance: Dan Kookan, Purchasing Manager
David Fredette, Treasurer/Tax Collector

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director
Re: Notice of Change in Contract for Professional Fundraising Consulting Services with Full Circle Consulting – Adding an additional 2 months of contract length and \$8,000 in compensation

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AUTHORIZE THE SECOND AMENDMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO MONTH EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISING CONSULTING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000 TO FULL CIRCLE CONSULTING. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TRUST FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Alright Tim Cummings is here so why don't you come on up? Thank you very much.

Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development

Thank you Mr. Mayor and through you to the Committee, my name is Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development. Yes before you have essentially a two-month extension for the professional fund raiser that has been and will continue to be paid for from the Downtown Improvement Committee Trust Fund. Essentially the scope of services has not changed and all this is, is because of the extension of the contract triggering an aggregate figure over \$25,000.00. We want to make sure the Committee was aware.

I will tell you that I believe a third amendment will be coming before you in relatively short order, which the dollar amount won't change, \$4,000.00 a month, I don't know for how many months. But the scope of services will change where we will be looking to continue the fund raiser on if it is the Committee's desire for a certain period of time to focus more on grants and administrative support services as the Capital Campaign Committee transitions to a more public phase. So with that being said, Mr. Mayor, I appreciate you and your Committee's full support of this amendment this evening. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Any questions or discussion?

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. So Director Cummings, just a question. Is this just extending here from two months from now or is that extending her contract that already exists for a certain amount of time?

Mr. Cummings

The current contract I believe is set to expire the end of February; this would be a continuation for March and April. And then, so two months, starting March 1st.

Alderwoman Kelly

Could I follow up please? Is there any reason why two months was chosen versus three or five or six considering the extension that we gave to the overall fundraising effort?

Mr. Cummings

My speculation is, is because I believe they will be looking to go into a third amendment pretty quickly which the nature of the job would change.

Alderwoman Kelly

OK.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I read this and it does say that it goes to April. So there's no scope of change of what she is doing or what they are doing currently, the third amendment might be a change in what she's doing.

Mr. Cummings

Correct.

Alderman Klee

OK thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Dan Kookan, Purchasing Manager

Re: Contract for Downtown Parking Study (Value: Not-To-Exceed \$83,900) Department: 166 Parking Operations; Fund: General

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AUTHORIZE THE CONTRACT FOR THE DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,900 TO DESMAN DESIGN MANAGEMENT. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 166 PARKING OPERATIONS; FUND: GENERAL

ON THE QUESTIONMayor Donchess

And on this we have Mr. Cummings and Ms. Stansfield as well so you tell us a little bit about this one?

Mr. Cummings

Yes thank you Mr. Mayor, again for the record Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development. And what you have before you this evening has been long-awaited and I am excited to have before you seeking approval a contract with Desman Consulting which is a nationally known parking consulting firm that's responded to our RFQ last fall. We put a Steering Committee together for the procurement of DPW Staff Wayne Husband, Community Development Staff of Julie Chizmas and Linda McGee, Jill Stansfield, and myself and we interviewed four firms I believe. Four firms; we then did another round of interviews for two more firms and eventually selecting Desman.

We then from essentially January to now negotiated a scope and fee which is just a little bit over \$80,000.00. We have that money set aside through an escrow that came about last fall. The money originally came from the Parking Enforcement Funds from last year where we had that account running in the positive. So we are excited to move forward. Actually I can report to you that if we get this contract approved this evening, we actually have a kick off meeting scheduled for March 17th at 10:00 AM in Room 208 here in the City. I will be sending an e-mail out to the Board of Aldermen to make them aware of some of the dates and invite their participation if they have an interest in being involved intimately with this project. We are hoping to have it wrapped up in late summer.

Mayor Donchess

Does everyone know Jill Stansfield? Jill, she's the parking manager.

Alderman O'Brien

I have a question for Mr. Cummings. Thank you Mr. Mayor, Mr. Cummings, when you chose Desman in my opinion I think Nashua is probably about 30 years behind Boston and the example of some of the parking problems that we are now kind of experiencing. So has Desman had the part of their consulting, I recognize I know they name, but what are some of their experience in looking at a City of Nashua that is now coming into the cusp of coming into a problem such as this and how much will they make this actually better for us?

Mr. Cummings

I would say, Mr. Mayor, if I may, Desman, if I was to objectively evaluate parking consulting, they would be my first choice. The second two, very good choices that are name brands, Walker Consulting and Nelson Nygaard. Those three firms, very respected in the parking industry. Desman has done a lot of work in middle tier type cities; at this type of population. They are very forward thinking in their parking management strategies. We had a lot of conversations with the principal who would be the project manager for this project. He actually happens to be a New Hampshire resident as well, living just outside of Nashua. He's very familiar with not just the City but the region and he consults actually across the country.

Alderman O'Brien

Follow up if I may? And I would like to discuss the date, 3/17? Although I will try to be there but you may find this a surprise but I am really booked that day with several very important cultural events that I have to attend to. Is that day flexible.

Alderman Klee

It's in the morning.

Alderman O'Brien

I just had to do it.

Mayor Donchess

Any other questions?

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah so I have a couple of questions. You know I appreciate the information we got in terms of the methodology, it looks obviously these people have been doing this for a long time. I am trying to figure out at what point, so one of your things says, "throughout the course of the study, outreach may occur". That feels a little vague, what – I think my concern specifically is how we are going to talk to the downtown businesses. I hear a lot from them, I am one. And how we are going to engage them in this?

Mr. Cummings

So a big part of the conversation that took place over the last two months and why we didn't just into a scope and fee with the firm was because we wanted to have a very clear understanding of what the outreach was going to be like. So we have scoped out and it is in your packet, which the scope is very clearly delineated to say that we have a Steering Committee with 3 or 4 Steering Committee Meetings. We have two Public Forums, so when I say Public Forums I want to be clear that these are Town Hall Style Meetings. We will then have ten stakeholder meetings where those will be one-on-one type meetings with groups external to City Hall. We will have two days' worth of internal personnel City Hall type meetings. We have two surveys, one at the beginning of the process and one at the end as well as traditional and social media type of outreach platform. All are articulated in the "Scope of Work" which came in as just over \$80,000.00.

Alderwoman Kelly

I appreciate that, I mean I saw a lot of that. I think my concern is that we've got those ten stakeholder meetings. That's the only opportunity to really talk one-on-one to people? I own a business, I know it's real hard to sometimes get to a Town Hall or fill out a survey, especially when there's only a two-week window. So I just want to make sure that throughout this process we are engaging people that it is going to affect most. I am talking for businesses, but there are also communities in the neighborhoods who will be affected by this.

Mr. Cummings

Yes I agree completely.

Alderman Laws

Thank you Mayor and it also goes without saying that at the completion of this process any significant changes to the program will have to go through the Board of Aldermen as well. So there will be additional opportunity for community members to come and voice their concerns or support, hopefully.

Alderman O'Brien

I hope the public does really get involved with this because I don't think the people of Nashua really realize how much their life is going to change with this basic public, well with this study. If we do go into downtown parking, plowing as you know it, is going to be much more difficult.

We do know, common sense, is we live in the Live Free or Die State but there are going to be people who ignore the restrictions of parking during a snow storm. So plow trucks are going to have to go around the parked vehicle. They are not going to be able to tow a lot of vehicles.

Also, trash collection, you know, I don't know if you have cars parked now where you have armed device that comes down and grabs the barrel, I don't know. I have several questions with this and this is why as the Chairman of Infrastructure you know I could very easily like Cinderella or Tinkerbell and throw magic dust and go park anywhere. But the thing is if that were to occur, there would be some ramifications, it's the ying and yang of life that we look at it. I think by having this study as a fresh, complete new start to find out. I think once we get into it, through the muck and mire of it, I think people will begin to realize, it's just not saying, "I want to park my car overnight". Like I say, it's the issues with trash removal, plowing, other different things that do not exist today.

Nashua has never traversed into this since about the 1700's. People didn't leave their horses parked out in front of the house tied to the wagon. So this is something very, very new. That's why I refer to other communities that have gone through this such in the greater Boston area like a City like Cambridge and everything else. I don't know where this is going to lead to but I am very interested; this is a study that really definitely needs to be done.

Alderman Klee

Thank you and if you'll indulge me I have two questions. The first one is and it was probably staring me in the face I just don't know. I keep seeing Desman and M&M and then M&M will do this report. What is M&M and who are they?

Mr. Cummings

Thank you Mr. Mayor if I may. Yes, Desman is the lead project consultant, M&M is the acronym for the Civil Engineering Firm that is a subcontractor to them and is part of the project team.

Alderman Klee

And if I may, I have a second question. The scope of this parking study goes beyond downtown and beyond metering, etc. We are looking at all parking throughout the City with an eye and a report that will talk to us about where we need metering or where we don't need metering, probably not that part. But where we do need it and where it would be advantageous? Is that correct? For the Public I just want to make sure that they understand that this not just downtown, this is for everything that will affect the overnight parking, etc. Is that correct?

Mr. Cummings

That is correct, again Mr. Mayor, if I may. The policy level questions will be brought up and discussed and brought to the forefront with this report with implantation strategies articulated and it is up to the Board of Aldermen to decide which direction you wish to go. And then another layer to that is the studying of where paid parking should be, which is a more focused area traditionally we refer to it as the downtown. How we define the downtown will be part of this conversation. But I don't want people to think that we are suddenly talking about metering spaces or metering streets outside of the downtown. But we absolutely will be having a policy level component to this study about you know how we want to handle parking outside of the downtown.

Alderman Klee

Just one more Mr. Mayor, thank you. It's not so much a question as a comment. I want to echo what Alderman O'Brien had said. I am like all the other Alderman in that we are getting inundated with the overnight parking. I know I have 7 people literally sitting at my doorstep waiting for us to come up with something and part of it is because of the increase of apartments to building ration and it is not doing it.

So I think this is good for a step much like I spoke at the Infrastructure Committee Meeting. We need this study so then we can at least then address the parking issues that we have, so thank you.

Mayor Donchess

And those people are looking to be able to park on the street.

Alderman Klee

Oh yea, yeah, I have at least seven streets within my ward.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes so my question is, we spend this money, we bring this consultant, they clearly know what they are doing. Once they hand over the final report and we implement, is there any look back to you know a post mortem in six months or a year to say, "did what they recommend work and are we happy with where we are".

Mr. Cummings

Thank you. Well that assumes we actually embrace and actually adopt what they recommend. So that is still to-be-determined, right? But assuming we do opt to adopt some of the recommendations that they make, the way Desman and a lot of these consultants come at these type of projects, a lot of these are loss leaders for them because what they are ultimately looking for is the long-term relationship. And so procuring Desman or any other consultant to work with us long-term for the implementation and that study of whether we were successful based on whatever metrics or goals we've articulated. They would be, in this case, the strategic partner that we have to help us with that. That is very much part of the thought process.

Alderwoman Kelly

OK so just to clarify, the way these consultancies work generally is that they have a long-term relationship with the City and continue to help and monitor their parking? And hopefully we would interact that way? OK thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Dan Kookan, Purchasing Manager
Re: Contract for 2020 Paving Program – Contract 1 (Value: \$4,014,750) Department: 160
Admin/Engineering; Funds: Bond and Trust and 169 Wastewater; Fund: Bond

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AUTHORIZE CONTRACT 1 FOR THE 2020 PAVING PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,014,750 TO SUNSHINE PAVING CORPORATION. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 160 ADMIN/ENGINEERING; FUNDS: BOND AND TRUST AND 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: BOND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

This is, I don't know if you know if you know Mr. Hudson, Dan Hudson, the new City Engineer, new as of January. I don't know if he's been here before?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

No this is my first time here, so happy to be here.

Mayor Donchess

Now there are two paving contracts so maybe you should address both of them at the same time.

Mr. Hudson

So this is our annual paving program. We let out two contracts one was for roads west of the turnpike and then we let out a second one a couple weeks later for east of the turnpike. As it turns out, Sunshine Paving was the low bidder on both contracts. So we are recommending awarding each of those to them. It is about 22 miles of paving in aggregate. Sunshine was here paving for us last year, about a \$4 million dollar contract and did a good job so we are recommending approval of these two contracts.

Mayor Donchess

Discussion/questions?

Alderman Laws

First off, Welcome, good to have you here.

Mr. Hudson

Thank you.

Alderman Laws

I vaguely remember and I am probably completely wrong, at the end of last year I feel like they didn't, they weren't able to finish the contracts? Whatever happened with that, did we get refunded or are they going to roll that into?

Mr. Hudson

So they will start out and they will complete that work in the spring, that was true for Brox as well. It is typically you know the end of the year ran into some weather and some projects were delayed by utility work. So there's a little bit of finishing to do in the spring on those contracts from last year. They will be in these contracts and they are expected to come in the beginning of April and start working.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. One of the things and I am speaking as much to the public as anything on this. I've had calls because people have seen this list and so on and said, "why not this street? All the streets around us have been done". And I have explained that there is a scoring and whether or not utility companies are going on there. So for instance in my Ward, Bell Street seems to be the unwanted child and it is not being paved while all the other streets have been done. It still has a low score but correct me if I am wrong. You may just hold off on that because of possibility of utility or other issues. Are there other reasons why you might skip a street among, because the public looks and says, "well they are there why don't they do that one".

Mr. Hudson

Sure, no that's understandable. No we do look at pavement conditions so that is kind of a primary metric. Obviously we try to not just work in one area of the City, we want to show that we are making an effort to improve pavement all over the City so some of it is geography. But you are absolutely right, we look at other works that is going on. Private utilities may have work, there are other City projects that are happening. I don't know specifically why Bell Street might be deferred or hasn't happened yet. But those are things we are considering all of the time.

Alderman Klee

Just one more question? One of the other things when I did contact our Public Works and Ms. Byers was able to give me what the score is of that street and so on.

Mayor Donchess

Which street are we talking about?

Alderman Kelly

Bell Street.

Mayor Donchess

Bell Street.

Alderman Klee

Yeah all of the other ones around it have been done. I am not pushing for Bell to be done but one of the things that came up in our conversation is that sometimes if a street seems particular bad it doesn't necessarily bubble up to the top because it is better to take care of one that's got less. Can you just kind of talk to that a little bit?

Mr. Hudson

Yes absolutely, you are right. So we have roads that, there's different categories of damage that may have occurred over the life, so when a road is still in fairly good shape, it is best to come and do and mill and overlay so that you repair just the surface layer; reseal the surface and you can preserve that road so that it lasts longer. Once roads deteriorate to a certain point then you have to do more invasive, more complete repair basically. We do a lot of reclaiming, we grind the road up, and then repave the full thickness. So that's much more costly. So to be cost-effective this program does a mix of those things; we don't want to leave all our very deteriorated roads to late. We want to take care of some of those too. But we are doing a mix, we are doing a mix of the preservation and the reclaim. So yeah you may have a street that's, you know, you say, "Hey this street over here looks better than this one". But there is a reason we are trying to save the better one from falling into a worse category which would be much more costly in the long run for the City to bring back up to par.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much, I appreciate your answers.

Mayor Donchess

The point being that if you do a middle street it's much less expensive. If you just do just the worst streets then you never get to the middle streets and they all have to be reclaimed and the whole thing costs more money.

Mr. Hudson

Exactly.

Mayor Donchess

And example in Ward 3 is Orange Street. Now Orange Street is in terrible, terrible shape and has been for several years at least. It was not paved but now, now that we have done a lot of the streets, Orange Street is now on the list to be reclaimed. I'm sure that is an example of a street that could you know that we held off on it because we were trying to do other streets and preserve them. Now we get to Orange Street and there's quite a few streets being reclaimed this year especially inside the highway. But Orange is really bad and I was so glad to see it on the list.

Alderman Klee

Mr. Mayor may I add to that?

Mayor Donchess

Yes Alderwoman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, yes. Orange Street is bad and the irony of it is the residents don't want it paved because they asked that when it gets paved if we could leave holes in it to slow people down. That one will be pushed towards the end of the year because of all the utility work. I guess there's a lot of sewer work that has to be done which is going to create a need to completely reclaim it because of all the digging is that correct?

Mr. Hudson

Yes that's correct. We have a sewer project which is the later contract we will talk about next but we will be replacing sewer main on Orange Street. So as bad as it is, it will be worse when we get done. So doing a full reclaim and repaving is appropriate.

Alderman Klee

And if I just, I just have one more? Whitney Street is also on there but because we have Whitney Street as part of our grant for the TAP Program that's probably going to be pushed off am I correct?

Ms. Hudson

Yes that's correct. We, in discussions realized that is a forthcoming project and that would be adding sidewalk where we would have to cut the pavement along the entire edge of the road. We decided to defer that one until that other work is done. Make a note in here, there's things that come up, some of these roads need to shift, or to defer, or to be done depending on other factors. So there's always a little bit of change to the list as we go through the year. But yeah we have decided to defer Whitney.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much I appreciate that.

Alderwoman Kelly

I think my question is for both of you and potentially for someone from the finance side. But I was just wondering how much we evaluate the program of the previous year and its successes as we build the new program and also potentially what that cost looks like.

Mr. Hudson

So I don't know if I can fully answer that I am fairly new. But yeah, you know, we are I think coming into year four of a five year bonding program. To the City's credit they've been very thoughtful in playing some catchup maybe, but putting a substantial effort into paving. You know we do the best we can to get the contracts out and get them built and so that's what we try to do. I think last year's program went fairly well from what I understand. It is obviously a disruptive thing where we are paving all over the City, people trying to get from point A to point B but I think the program has been very successful to date, at least from what I see coming in and we are just going to continue that.

Alderwoman Kelly

Can I follow up? Do you know and maybe you don't because you're new? Do you know how many miles we plan to pave and how many we actually completed last year?

Mr. Hudson

I apologize, I don't have that in front of me. I know in the budget report we do each year, we report how much we've done. I think we were pretty much on target last year of what we expected to do.

Mayor Donchess

It was about 30 miles, maybe we were a little short because of the weather at the end.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alright, thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. Welcome, first time here, I'd like to give you your chance at your first public service announcement. And that is can you discuss the five year moratorium that we do have when we pave and do we put the list out. I wish the homeowners would look and if they want to upgrade at that particular time to natural gas or to fix their water systems or perhaps re-tie in the sewer system. Can you explain the five year moratorium of elected type of situations? Now emergencies are one thing but can you just explain the moratorium? That way we keep our streets looking the best, for at least five years if we can.

Mr. Hudson

Yeah for sure, so we are spending a lot of money here and our goal is to preserve that investment so there is a five year moratorium for newly paved roads except in the case of emergency or hardship. We wouldn't permit somebody to cut into that pavement, should that be necessary, like unfortunately we recently had on Kinsley Street that was just paved. A resident's sewer service collapsed so we went before the Public Works Board and had to request approval to cut into the street. That's unfortunate, nobody likes that, but it happens. But when that happens we need to do a restoration where there's a cut back or paving of that area but then we go further and we mill 20 feet beyond either side of the cut and then repave that.

So at least this top surface is all sealed back in. I wish we could avoid that, I know some people joke that the surest way to have something break it to paint it black, pave it, right? It happens, we do send out public notices and I agree we do wish that people would you know look at those and try to do everything that they can to upgrade their services. Because it is very costly to do that repair method and if it is the owner's service then it's on their dime that work needs to be done. So if you have a service that is in questionable condition, you know, many years old, it would behoove you to try to do that ahead of our paving.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

In the Contract 1, do you know when that is supposed to start?

Mr. Hudson

Sure again it is the same contract and we met with them and they intend to come in at the beginning of April, start some milling work probably the first couple of weeks of April. Of course, this is all weather-dependent, we will be watching the weather closely when we get there. And then we will start paving about mid-month. Then they plan to be here consistently. In these contracts this year we've set milestones, so there's certain milestones they need to meet throughout the year. We did have to try to encourage you know a good effort early on to hopefully avoid some of the carry over in the following year like we've seen in the past. So yeah they should be paving mid-April.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Well I guess I want to say I am happy to see that Marian Lane is finally on the list because all of the streets around me have been done. And I had a very hard time last year with my neighbors, because we couldn't understand how all the streets around us and just totally did not get Marian and we have 3 potholes right now and one huge one right in front of my property.

Mayor Donchess

Get out there and get Marian Lane right away.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Will we know in advance the areas you are going to be working in?

Mr. Hudson

Yes.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Because I might want to look at getting my driveway done, the same thing and all that.

Mr. Hudson

Yes so we are sending out notices now so people should be receiving and are probably going to have questions, they can contact us if they have any. So those notices are going out. As we come to working on a street, our public relations person Lauren Byers, she will be posting more timely information, "we will be there paving". So you expect we are doing your street, but you don't know exactly when. So as we come to your street, there should be noticed posted.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Dan Kooken, Purchasing Manager
Re: Contract for 2020 Paving Program – Contract 2 (Value: \$4,262,734) Department: 160
Admin/Engineering; Funds: Bond and Trust and 169 Wastewater; Fund: Bond

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AUTHORIZE CONTRACT 2 FOR THE 2020 PAVING PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,262,734 TO SUNSHINE PAVING CORPORATION. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 160 ADMIN/ENGINEERING; FUNDS: BOND AND TRUST AND 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: BOND
MOTION CARRIED

From: Dan Kooken, Purchasing Manager
Re: Contract for 2020 Sewer Replacement Program (Value: \$1,497,993) Department: 169 Wastewater;
Fund: Wastewater

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AUTHORIZE THE CONTRACT FOR THE 2020 SEWER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,497,993 TO SUR CONSTRUCTION WEST, INC. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: WASTEWATER

ON THE QUESTION

Mr. Hudson

Thank you. So this is a program as noted to replace failing, aged sewers and associated structures and piping. We put this out to bid and received six bids. SUR Construction West of Winchester, NH was the low bidder. I don't believe they have worked in the City before but they are reputable contract and have done a lot of this type of work. So we find their bid responsive and recommend approval of this contract.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much. When I look at all these contracts, they are significantly lower than all of the other ones. So my first knee-jerk reaction is "do we know their history of change orders, staying within budget". I assume all those questions were asked and so on?

Mr. Hudson

Yeah we noticed that too, they were quite a bit under the other bidders. So we had a meeting with them; and wanted to make sure should this be approved that they honor the contract. And they assured us they would. They made the point that they do mostly New Hampshire work, they are a New Hampshire company. You know some of the other bidders are Massachusetts and they have to pay higher labor rates and what not. So that may be a factor. But like I said, they are a reputable company and we are aware of their work. This is a unit price type of work. So if they put in 10 feet of pipe, they get paid for 10 feet of pipe, per the rates in the contract. So you know we believe that things will go well and we have no reason to believe otherwise.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Dan Kooken, Purchasing Manager
Re: Contract for 2020 Landfill Gas Collection and Control System Expansion – Change Order 2 (Value: \$287,565) Department: 168 Solid Waste; Fund: Bond

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AUTHORIZE CHANGE ORDER 2 FOR THE 2020 LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION AND CONTROL SYSTEM EXPANSION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$287,565 TO SCS FIELD SERVICES. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 168 SOLID WASTE; FUND: BOND

ON THE QUESTION

Jeff LaFleur, Superintendent Solid Waste

Thank you Mayor, thank you Committee. This is my annual expansion that I do at the landfill every year for our gas expansion to collect all the gas to help with emissions and any odor controls. You see that this is a change order to, I did a change order one in the fall for a header replacement that had failed. We just barely have them coming in now, we had to wait for our funding. They are in now, so by me doing a change order two, I am actually saving us a mobilization charge anywhere from \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00. That's why I did it this way. SCS Contractors have historically been our lowest bidder for any of our gas expansion projects so that's why I justified going with them with a change order just to get this project moving and saving us the \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00 mobilization charge.

Mayor Donchess

Discussion?

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you, can you just explain what mobilization charge is for people who don't necessarily know?

Mr. LaFleur

Yes sorry, mobilization charge, that would be all the equipment needed to do the work. So they bring in excavators, backhoes and trucks, tractors, whatever they need to do the work. That would be the mobilization charge and it's fairly high expense every time we have them come in just to get that equipment mobilized.

Alderwoman Kelly

So you are saying they are already there?

Mr. LaFleur

They will already be here, that's why by doing the change order, I'll be saving that money. Instead of having them demobilize and then remobilize.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah that makes more sense, thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much. This system here that we have the gas collection and control system, as you pointed out it is to control odor and the emissions that come out. This gas is it recycled to be able to use for energy or anything of like that nature.

Mr. LaFleur

Yes absolutely, we have a company that is at the landfill, EPP, Energy Power Partners. They take the gas from the landfill, they generate electricity and then we get a certain percentage of that back. I'm not sure of the exact percentage but they are using landfill gas to generate electricity and put it back out to the grid.

Alderman Klee

Just one more thing. So what you are saying is that we are actually kind of getting revenue from this too but we don't know off-hand what that kind of revenue is?

Mr. LaFleur

That was a contract that was done throughout the City.

Mayor Donchess

I don't think we get revenue because there was a dispute with the prior contractor and it was a very serious dispute over their performance. I am trying to think of who that was.

Mr. LaFleur

It was Foristar.

Mayor Donchess

There was a dispute about the quality of their work, who was supposed to pay for the improvements, all those kinds of things. And it was compromising the system and there were odors escaping so it was quite a problem. And there was litigation in the US District Court over this contract. So our current contractor came in and agreed to pay off I believe the number was \$500,000.00 to the previous contractor. Now this was 5 or 6 years ago, when I was an Alderman I remember, pay off the previous contractor and settle the litigation and take over the contract. I think the agreement was, at that point, that in consideration for the fact that they paid out \$500,000.00 to settle the matter for us, they get the revenue from the gas I think.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you for taking my question. Any of this work that is going on now we will be keeping a leather eye on the future project of the expansion of the DPW Facility where we may have the ability to have a combination system of propane and the gas that we are collecting, the methane from the landfill. So if anything doing it is now is the time to kind of look at that and try to see if there is anticipation of the future. Would it be now or in the future?

Mr. LaFleur

Yes sir. We are actually talking with EPP the company that is using the gas to make electricity to come up with some ideas. What would be beneficial for us? I don't think we will ever use the gas that is coming out but we will use the heat from the engines that are generating electricity to help the new DPW facility.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Dan Kookan, Purchasing Manager
Re: Contract for Single Stream Recycling – Amendment #2 – Two Year Extension (Value: Not-To-Exceed \$400,000) Department: 168 Solid Waste; Fund: Solid Waste

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT #2 FOR SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING - TWO YEAR EXTENSION - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,000 TO CASELLA RECYCLING LLC. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 168 SOLID WASTE; FUND: SOLID WASTE

ON THE QUESTION

Mr. LaFleur

Thank you again, Jeff LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste. This is the extension to the contract for the single stream recycling. I have done some research looking around and it seems like we have a very fair agreement with Casella right now. In fact to the extent that if we were to go out to bid, we may not have anyone else bid on the project because the pricing is so high. The Director and I actually sat down with the members of the company and discussed the options with them and we feel very comfortable at where we are at right now and we'd like to extend it for two more years.

We don't see any changes in the markets, I mean they are going up and down, but very little. So there isn't really great hope with recycling, so I think this is the best option for us right now.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, at the meeting the other night, being the liaison to Public Works you did discuss that we are doing something with the glass which is one of the highest weight in order to ship that out, Casella could probably have it and could you explain that we are getting some benefit back and what we are using the glass for?

Mr. LaFleur

Yes absolutely, we started taking glass from Casella at \$16.00 a ton to help offset the cost of recycling. As you know last year we had to ask for an amendment to the contract for \$120,000.00. This year we don't foresee having to ask for any extra cash on that by us taking the glass in. The glass is actually being used in our setback where we need to have hundreds of thousands of yards of backfill material. DES gave us the approval to use that back there. So I took the opportunity to start taking in more glass to help off set the cost of recycling. I also went to DES and we got glass approved as a daily cover, so I can take in a little bit more glass to cover our trash; I have to cover trash every day, 6 inches of cover material over it, the glass is an acceptable cover material now. So that is helping us out with the offset for the recycling.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I kind of mentioned to you prior to this meeting that up in the State House they are looking at pulling out the glass and as you mentioned that for and with the mandate for DOT to be using it in the streets and so on. When we talked, I guess I am still questioning, we are not separating the glass here? Is Casella separating it and then brings it back, is that how that would work?

Mr. LaFleur

That's correct.

Alderman Klee

So we are still doing the single stream?

Mr. LaFleur

Yes.

Alderman Klee

We are not separating because it would be two collections and so on.

Mr. LaFleur

Exactly.

Alderman Klee

And it would cost us, so we are still doing the single stream, they extract it and then they return it to us so we can use it in this manner, is that correct?

Mr. LaFleur

Yes, exactly.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Dan Kooken, Purchasing Manager
Re: Purchase of Hayes Pump, Fairbanks Pump Northgate Pump Station (Value: \$30,307) Department:
169 Wastewater; Fund: Wastewater

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF HAYES PUMP, FAIRBANKS PUMP NORTHGATE PUMP STATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,307 TO HAYES PUMP, INC. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: WASTEWATER

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Boucher, go ahead.

David Boucher, Waste Water Superintendent

Good evening, this is for a purchase of a pump for our north gate pump station, it is the largest pump station in the City. It services the part of the west side of Nashua, off of Campton Street. This would be utilized as a back up pump. Currently we have a new pump in the pump station and an old pump which is kind of on borrowed time. We need another pump as a standby for this facility. There is a long lead time on these pumps. The facility is due for upgrades as part of our Phase II which is a little ways out. So when it does come time to upgrade the pump station, the cost of the pump station would be minus this cost because this is the pump that would be going in in that future upgrade.

Alderman O'Brien

Probably would be nice to mention I kind of sweated bullets with it, I'm sure you did too. But can you say what happened this summer? We did have a failure of one pump and we were relying on one pump and I would guess it would make a bloody mess if that one pump did fail. So this is prudent to think ahead like this.

Mr. Boucher

You are right. This is a pump station that pumps sewage under the Nashua River to the other side I think Shore Street without that pump you don't pump anything and things back up and you are right, it wouldn't be a pretty sight.

Alderman O'Brien

And follow up if I may. That pump station is adjacent to a clean waterway too so it needs to run perfectly.

Mr. Boucher

Yeah all the pumps stations are in pretty sensitive locations. But yeah you are correct.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

RECORD OF EXPENDITURES

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE RECORD OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2020 TO FEBRUARY 29, 2020

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderwoman Kelly

Just quickly wanted to thank everyone involved in the paving program. I know it's a big undertaking and I think it is really important that the City has put together this program. I ask everyone's patience as we move through it. I know it's not always the easiest thing, but I think you really get to see those benefits. So thank you.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Committee Clerk