

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

March 21, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Councilor David A. Witham, Chairman
Councilor Denis Messier, Vice-Chairman
Councilor Kenneth Vincent
Councilor Martin Pepin

Administration/Staff present: City Manager – Bob Belmore
Finance Director/DCM – Scott Smith
Director of Public Works – Michael Bobinsky
City Engineer – Amber Hall
City Clerk – Jonathan Slaven

Chairman Witham called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Messier made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 4-0.

PAVEX ROAD RESURFACING UPDATE

City Manager Belmore informed the Committee he received a letter from PAVEX, the company awarded the FY2022 paving contract, requesting an extension on the execution of their contract until March 25. Manager Belmore stated he was told they are not going out of business, but are unable to currently perform the contract and PAVEX would like to subcontract the project to Brox Industries. Manager Belmore suggested the most effective way to move forward would be to contract with PAVEX and allow them to subcontract the work. If they are unable to do that, we could move on to the next bidder, which was approximately \$82,000 more than PAVEX, but there is no guarantee that they are even available now. If the City agrees to allow PAVEX to subcontract the work, PAVEX would still be under contract with the City and Director Smith explained we would get a payment bond and performance bond for 100% of the project.

Councilor Messier stated his reluctance with the situation noting a potential loss of bond from PAVEX. Director Smith clarified that each bidder is required to submit a 5% bid bond, which PAVEX forfeits if they cannot perform the contract. Once a contract is signed, the contractor is required to provide the City a payment bond and performance bond for 100% of the project. Councilor Vincent voiced apprehension with a subcontractor since PAVEX may not subcontract to who they say they will. Director Smith stated that the City would write the contract that the City has to approve the subcontractor in advance. Councilor Witham stated there are a lot of times a contractor utilizes subs without notice, but this is more typical with trucking services. He said he is willing to support the

change to allow PAVEX to subcontract with Brox since the City will have protections in place and time is of the essence.

The Committee reached a consensus to this effect if PAVEX responds back by Friday. If not, they agreed to go with the next lowest bidder.

ROAD PAVEMENT MARKINGS BID

Manager Belmore explained that a joint bid with the City of Dover for longline pavement marking services was conducted, and K5 Corporation was the low bid. Enclosed with your agenda is a memo from Director Bobinsky showing the amount of the bid of approximately \$24,000, and that it came in around \$3500 over budget.

Director Bobinsky informed the Committee that we have worked with K5 Corporation before. The Committee saw no issues with awarding the bid.

ROCKY HILL RD CULVERT BIDS

Manager Belmore explained that two bids for the culvert were received and vetted. City Engineer Amber Hall stated that references for both companies were positive and both have had multi-year contracts in the past. Director Smith explained that the lowest bid from Wickson Construction came in approximately \$270,000 over the projected budget. Councilor Witham asked what are the City's possible funding sources to cover the amount over budget?

Director Smith stated funding sources are the unassigned fund balance, ARPA funds due to arrive in June, and both water and sewer funds. He informed the committee that we haven't fully broken down the cost by fund yet.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to support a Resolution to approve Wickson Construction for the project contingent upon further investigation into references. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 4-0.

KELWYN DRIVE – ROLLINSFORD PROPERTY WATER SERVICE REQUEST

Manager Belmore informed the Committee he has had conversations with the attorney for a property owner on Kelwyn Drive in Rollinsford regarding a request for water services to the last remaining lot in this area that straddles both Somersworth and Rollinsford. He stated that in the past the Committee has taken the position of requiring an intermunicipal agreement noting the issue of how to monitor the water and the lack of ability to lien the property due to it being in Rollinsford. Manager Belmore stated that although we would not have the ability to lien, Somersworth has the ability to shut the water off due to unpaid water bills.

Director Smith provided the Committee a map showing the Kelwyn Drive subdivision and the water main. The complication here, in order to enter into an intermunicipal agreement, the City would

want to install a master meter for the Rollinsford residents. However, the water main is a looped system, and the City/Town line intersect the water main, so there is no way to reasonably isolate Rollinsford from Somersworth.

Councilor Witham stated that while it would be nice to have an intermunicipal agreement, the ask is not too large when it is one house and is the last remaining developable lot on the street.

Councilor Messier made a motion to support a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to petition the Public Utilities Commission to allow the extension of the water line to the lot in Rollinsford at the property owner's expense. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 4-0.

CONSTITUTIONAL WAY AND MAIN ST COMPLETE STREETS

Director Smith stated the Constitutional Way complete street design is about 60% complete while Main Street is approximately 40% complete and the City has applied for funding through the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF) and State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He informed the Committee that the City is eligible for both, however both projects, which are estimated to be around \$6 million, would have to be done simultaneously. He stated in addition to borrowing approximately 1.5 million from the SRLF, the City would need to bond an additional \$4.6 million, but wondered if the timing was right.

Councilor Witham asked why the projects were coming in so cheap. Staff responded they will go back to the City's consultant engineer and confirm these costs.

Director Bobinsky stated that further inspection of the sewer and drain lines will dictate further costs. Councilor Messier questioned what type of system is under Main Street being that it is an extremely old road. Engineer Hall stated that the drainage system under Main Street is a 48" brick pipe system. Manager Belmore asked if the Committee wanted to bid both projects at once and asked Ms. Hall what the current timeline is for grant sources. Ms. Hall stated that grant applications are due in by June 30th. Councilor Witham stated the Committee should wait for more information and look to see where the projects are in the CIP to help guide the decision. The Committee reached a consensus to that effect.

SRPC CITY PROJECT SOLICITATION, 10-YEAR PLAN

For informational purposes, Manager Belmore stated that the SRPC is currently soliciting transportation projects from members in order to be added to the State's 10-year plan. He mentioned the Salmon Falls River Bridge comes to mind and the City is currently encumbering \$60,000 for the project which hasn't moved forward. Councilor Witham requested that Manager Belmore reach out to New Hampshire and Maine DOTs to further inquire about the likelihood of the project gaining traction.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Messier voiced his concern with the current municipal waste bag vendor and numerous potholes throughout the City. Councilor Witham also highlighted a few potholes and road degradation on Willand Drive. Councilor Vincent noted that the slope side of Mount Vernon Street may not need the paving as much as other nearby areas.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Slaven City Clerk