

REGULAR MEETING, MUNICIPAL BOARD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011
7:00 P.M.

Present

Commissioners: Blackler, Blackwell, Dolmatch, Hall, and Moffa, and DMO Lotkowitz.

Minutes

Comm. Hall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/29/10. The motion was seconded by Comm. Blackwell and they were approved unanimously, (5-0).

Cryptosporidium-UV / Mechanical Design Proposal Bid Award

Comm. Moffa updated the group about the February 3rd meeting with GHD to which he, Trustee Hubbard, Comm. Dolmatch and DMO Lotkowitz attended. After GHD's review of the three bids, it was determined that Severn Trent was the low bidder in terms of life-cycle costs, however, they had a major potential deal-breaking issue, with respect to the head that's required to push the flow through their unit. Severn Trent originally portrayed their head loss to be in the neighborhood of 5 inches, when in fact it is more like 5psi, (Pounds per square inch), which is equivalent to 10 feet of head pressure. This is the first time this issue has been identified. DMO Lotkowitz stated that all of the bids were somewhat incomplete, technically; documents were missing. GHD will write each company a letter asking a number of questions that have been raised in all three proposals to be sure we are comparing "apples to apples". Comm. Dolmatch asked when the answers to these questions need to be received. DMO Lotkowitz stated that he doesn't know, but he does know that GHD sent the requests for compliance letters out after that February 3rd meeting. Each will be given the opportunity to bring their bid into compliance. Comm. Blackler asked how long they have to comply. DMO Lotkowitz replied that he thinks they need to reply within two weeks, he'd have to look at a copy of the letter. He knows that Mr. Castro needs time to write a letter to the Village Board recommending a company prior to the next Village Board meeting on February 28th. Comm. Dolmatch asked where GHD stands on their ability to begin the design. DMO Lotkowitz stated that they have begun the design, but basically have held off. It's agreed that the Municipal Board's input has already been taken into consideration by Comm. Dolmatch and Comm. Moffa's presence at the February 3rd meeting, therefore the Village Board will be choosing the bidder after GHD's letter of recommendation is received, prior to February 28th's Village Board meeting. Comm. Dolmatch asked when the 120 day or the 90 day period begins, as the bid documents state that the awarded bidder is obligated to hold their price such that the installation bidders can rely on the price for 90/120 days. Do we calculate the days as of the date the incomplete bids came in, last month, or when the completed bids come in? Commissioners Blackwell and Dolmatch agreed that there are real time pressures here that need to be considered. Comm. Dolmatch recommended that GHD begin their design tomorrow, if there is any inkling on which bidder will be chosen. He also suggested that the Mayor canvass the Village Board to authorize GHD to proceed on their design tomorrow based upon their probable recommendation. Comm. Blackwell suggested that since all three bidders had compliance issues, why not start the whole bidding process over and not put the Village on the spot in regards to a time crunch. Comm. Dolmatch stated that 90 days from the date of bid acceptance, which hasn't happened yet, is not enough time to receive and award. If GHD says they need two months to complete the design, then by time the installation bids come in and an award is made, this equipment bid will have lapsed and the equipment suppliers will no longer be obligated to honor those prices. Clerk Clark restated the uncertainty of which time length we are dealing with; 90 or 120 days. Comm. Blackwell said that if it's 120 days, we may be alright. DMO Lotkowitz stated that **he thought it was for 120 days**; GHD used the amount of days we requested, **but he will verify**. Comm. Dolmatch also requested that GHD deliver design documents within 45 days, not 60 days. Comm. Moffa asked DMO Lotkowitz if he knows how many days GHD will have to provide biddable documents. DMO Lotkowitz stated he thinks mid-April is their deadline.

Stimulus Bill-Status of Applications

DMO Lotkowitz said the earliest the Consolidation Grant would be reviewed is March 1st. He also stated that we won't be contacted until the end of March for the GIGP (Green Innovation Grant Program) Solar Demonstration grant.

Status of NYPA Solar Power System Host Site

DMO Lotkowitz's said the roof he was most concerned with having solar panels installed on, was the Allyn Ice Arena's rubber roof. His research has shown that these solar panels can be installed, assembled & disassembled very easily. They are the "plug-n-play" style that is ballast mounted. If roofs need to be repaired or replaced, the panels are easily removed and they can withstand 100 mph winds. He chose not to factor in the requested costs of roof repairs or replacement costs because he halted the project, due to the impossible payback with savings only averaging \$1300 per year. After passing out updated financial sheets with current discount, inflation rates and solar savings, he said there's no way the Village Board (rate payers) can be asked to spend over \$40,000 on the solar project. This represents the out of pocket total after the approximate total cost of the project; \$227,000 is decreased by the \$186,000 grant. Commissioner Blackwell agreed by saying, "I'll buy that". DMO Lotkowitz noted that, as a Municipality, we can't take advantage of Federal Tax credits either. He will contact NYPA (New York Power Authority) and recommend that Villagers be able to take advantage of the program; the 30% Federal tax credit and state credit of 40% off the cost of the equipment.

Discussion took place regarding the properties using electricity completely for heat; the properties that recently installed and will install three-phase electric meters, the properties installing electric sidewalks and properties installing electric parking lots in the Village. Comm. Blackwell would like to see some sort of legislation limiting this, as it increases all of resident's bills. DMO Lotkowitz said that he has asked Jorge Battle, our building and codes enforcement officer and was advised that there is nothing we can do to limit such. Comm. Blackwell said he's not talking about current procedures, he means enacting a new Village Law. Comm. Dolmatch stated that it's a Public Service Commission situation. Comm. Blackwell said he's very disappointed that the Municipal Board wasn't advised of the flagrant consumption of power taking place and yet to take place. He asked if DMO Lotkowitz was aware of this situation. DMO Lotkowitz said that he had heard about the parking lot. Comm. Moffa would like some brainstorming and policy type guidelines to be worked on. **Commissioners Blackwell and Dolmatch offered to do some research and work on some language regulating the above.**

Insulation Program IEEP/NYPA

DMO Lotkowitz stated that he has an updated contract to present the Village Board. He feels this is where we should be putting our money, CFL's (compact fluorescent bulbs) and insulation reimbursement. Comm. Blackwell said he feels strongly that we should stay away from the controversy associated with CFL's, but is in agreement that insulation reimbursement is a good program. **Comm. Moffa said that he will bring information to the next meeting that he and DMO Lotkowitz were given today by the EPA. (Environmental Protection Agency) regarding the benefits of CFL's.**

CNY Climate Change Innovation Program

DMO Lotkowitz stated that he and Comm. Moffa attended the kick-off meeting for the program at the CNY Regional Planning board office. Those present included representatives from the EPA, NYSERDA, (New York State Energy Research & Development Authority), and the DEC (Department Environmental Conservation). There was a Tompkins County program participant there, who already performed their inventory. DMO Lotkowitz stated, "We also received some training on how to do an inventory of your green house gas consuming things". The Village needs to be sent a contract next. As stated in previous meetings, funding will follow for software, as well as an intern to perform the inventory.

AMR

DMO Lotkowitz doesn't have an arrival date yet, but stated the district meter specs were sent to EJP (EJ Prescott) and he's now waiting for a quote on the meters prior to ordering them. The expected cost is \$20,000-\$30,000. total. Comm. Blackwell stated that we should obtain bids for these meters at that cost; he doesn't like just asking EJP for a quote and paying it. DMO Lotkowitz said that he doesn't know how to do that; these meters need to be compatible with the AMR system we have. Comm. Blackler said that we can ask for meter quotes for meters compatible with our system, he bets that there are some companies out there. DMO Lotkowitz said it's a proprietary system and isn't sure how to request bids. Comm. Blackwell and Comm. Blackler stated that these meters were not included in the original contract with EJP. "They were after thoughts, overlooks", Comm. Blackwell stated.

Comm. Blackler said the original plan was to retrofit these. Comm. Blackwell again made a request that we go out for bids. DMO Lotkowitz said he would, if Comm. Blackwell would give him some company names to approach. Comm. Moffa asked **Comm. Blackwell to try and find some companies to get quotes from**, since he felt there were some out there, to which Comm. Blackwell obliged. **At that time, DMO Lotkowitz said he would also ask EJP to provide him with some names of their competitors.** Comm. Moffa asked DMO Lotkowitz to give an update on the billing interface work being done. DMO Lotkowitz stated that the 4-6 digit issue still needs some work. Comm. Moffa asked if it's just a program change could DMO Lotkowitz get it taken care of. DMO Lotkowitz stated he could. Comm. Blackwell asked if he had a target date for completion. DMO Lotkowitz stated he did not. Comm. Blackwell observed that this is a factor in getting the entire system up and running and asked if this issue may be a reason to hold up payment. Comm. Moffa stated the Village Attorney already determined that we are not to withhold payment. DMO Lotkowitz stated that we are keeping with the original plan of putting MXU's on these meters.

Comm. Blackwell asked what the statuses of the three-phase meters are with EJP and how many we are dealing with. DMO Lotkowitz said approximately 30 meters downtown are three phase and have not been addressed yet. The programmer from Elster has not come to program them yet. Comm. Moffa asked if he's been contacted, to which DMO Lotkowitz said he had and they are getting together next week to go through the list of pending items.

Comm. Blackwell asked if there had been any changes in the Kreb's application regarding their electricity requirements. DMO Lotkowitz said that he hasn't received the load letter yet, but they are "going underground" (W. Genesee) and will be eliminating two service poles. He said they requested a location for a pad-mounted transformer. Comm. Blackwell stated that it would be his guess that they are going to be in the category he just talked about: three phase.

Rate Calculation for Electric billing to residents

DMO Lotkowitz stated the Wilson rate study was approved by the Village Board and he's waiting for the list of items Curt Wilson needs in order to begin his study next week.

DMO Lotkowitz passed out a summary of options to service the YMCA. Comm. Blackwell asked how much we are increasing their annual power; what's their consumption. DMO Lotkowitz stated that the Wilson report will determine that. He estimated their average annual consumption to be around 500kw according to the actual profile he handed out at the last meeting. Comm. Dolmatch asked if there is a feeder that runs up State St. DMO Lotkowitz said there is, but it's old and needs to be replaced. Comm. Dolmatch asked what would be the outcome if we split the load (one for the rink, one for the pools) and avoid the rebuilding of either or both services. DMO Lotkowitz said that wouldn't work because it's only one phase beyond the State St. school and would need to be three. He continued to explain his color coding on the charts. DMO stated that Austin St. needs to be rebuilt, at least, from Academy St. to Austin St. and from Jordan St. to W. Austin. Comm. Dolmatch said that some of these redo's located on the charts would not need to be done, if we are redoing all those streets; and why couldn't we dig up the Park. Comm. Hall, Comm. Moffa, Comm. Blackler, and DMO Lotkowitz all stated that would be a great idea. Comm. Blackwell noted it would be a lot of money. Discussion of all the options on his handout continued. Comm. Blackwell noted that with this replacement of the feed to the YMCA, and parking lots that are going to be heated, etc. our sub-station could be running out of capabilities. He said we have two transformers supplying the whole Village and with this added load, maybe we should be looking at three transformers and having a spare, rather than just the two we have right now. DMO Lotkowitz said that is exactly what CHA (Clough Harbour & Assoc.) is looking at right now, our infrastructure needs; transformers, reclosers and the sub-station. Comm. Dolmatch stated that he tried get together with Comm. Blackwell and Charlie Wallace and has heard nothing from Mr. Wallace. DMO Lotkowitz said he will make sure that Commissioner's Dolmatch and Blackwell are invited to the next meeting with Mr. Wallace on this topic.

Comm. Blackler asked if DMO Lotkowitz plans on using Village forces to accomplish the above work. DMO Lotkowitz said it has yet to be determined. Comm. Blackler asked if he would be estimating the work load. DMO Lotkowitz said that he has a list of "to do" items for this coming summer; and that CHA will be determining the work load for this project. At that time he'll see how it all fits together.

Storm Water & Water Quality

DMO Lotkowitz sent the report to the DEC on the waste water treatment plant's annual update. The stray-voltage and circuit inspection reports were sent to the PSC.

Comm. Dolmatch asked if there had been any progress with the merger of Village and Town with regard to water. DMO Lotkowitz stated that the attorneys stated we wouldn't be hearing anything prior March 1, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

DMO Lotkowitz contacted Tony Modafferi requesting the procedure to obtain additional hydro-power. He passed out a copy of the form required to start the procedure which the group reviewed and discussed. DMO Lotkowitz asked if Comm. Blackwell would work with him on this application for increased hydro-power, to which Comm. Blackwell replied that he would.

Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, 2011.

Adjournment

Comm. Dolmatch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Comm. Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Audrey C. Clark
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer