MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 9, 2020 MEETING MINUTES (approved August 17, 2020)

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners was conducted on June 9, 2020 at 4:39 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Chairman, Donald Provencher presided, via electronic participation:

Members of the Board present: Wolfram von Schoen, electronic participation

Kenneth Ayers

Members of the Board Absent: Joe Comer, Vice Chairman

Anthony Pellegrino, Personnel Liaison

Also in Attendance: Ron Miner, Superintendent

Jill Lavoie, Business Manager

1. Board of Commissioners to discuss Capital Projects with Underwood Engineers to include:

a) Wells 7 & 8 PFAS treatment plant bids and project award

At this time, P. Pitsas of Underwood Engineers informed the commission that the bids for Wells 7 & 8 were opened on May 27, 2020. He noted there were three bidders, the low bidder being Infrastructure Construction Corp (ICC) of Bow, NH. ICC is a smaller company with good references. Underwood has recommended awarding to ICC. Pitsas informed the commission that ICC's president will be the Project Manager / Superintendent on site. ICC's low bid was \$3,536,000, compared to the Engineer's estimate of \$3,493,000. The average bid was \$3,668,000. It was noted that ICC included a \$300,000 credit to remove a lag vessel. P. Pitsas informed the commission that the line items for the entire treatment system totaled \$1,080,000. Taking off \$300,000 leaves a total of \$780,000 for one vessel and the pipe rack. Underwood Engineers recommends putting in both vessels. The cost to put in a second vessel at a later date would be high (and would include the vessel, building modifications, and shipping cost between \$50,000 - \$100,000). Pitsas noted that the overall cost for construction and engineering is over the current appropriations. This may be rectified by passing the warrant article combining both projects (wells 2/3 and wells 7/8) at the Annual Meeting currently scheduled for July 7, 2020.

P. Pitsas informed the commission that the GAC warranty has presented an issue. He noted that Underwood had put together a warranty for the project based on the Rapid Small-Scale Column Test (RSSCT) that they had done with EPS as part of the design phase services. Evoqua requested water samples to run their own RSSCT. With their own results, Evoqua did not feel that they could meet the warranty presented by Underwood. Underwood continued with the bids as

planned and Evoqua decided to run a second RSSCT. The results of the second RSSCT are pending and expected back on or around June 19, 2020. Varying results may be due to the different ways EPS and Evoqua scale their tests down. Commissioner W. von Schoen asked if there was any possibility that this would indicate that the vessel capacity has not included sufficient safety factors or buffers that might be needed. P. Pitsas answered that the RSSCTs are an estimate for bed life and is not positive what will happen regarding bed life. He also noted that there is very limited information on which method better predicts a bed life shortchange. K. Pratt stated that if MVD is in the position to award the contract now, there is a warranty issue. If MVD is not yet able to award the bid this allows time for the most recent RSSCT results to come in and the warranty to be discussed. P. Pitsas informed the commission that ICC is reluctant to sign a contract with MVD prior to finding a solution to the warranty. The commissioners agreed to table the contract award.

At this time P. Pitsas informed the commission that NHDES did concur with Underwood's recommendation for award and gave their authorization. He also noted that ICC is willing to move the project ahead in terms of submitting shop drawings, at their own risk. Underwood could review the shop drawings without release until the contract is signed. Once the contract is signed Underwood could release the shop drawings, which would allow ICC to move ahead. ICC has reached out to the Town of Hollis to obtain a building permit. To do so, the Town of Hollis requires that a truss shop drawing be submitted with the building permit. ICC attempted to submit the truss shop drawing for the old plant, which had been furnished in the bid package. The Town of Hollis did not accept this. ICC was informed by the Town of Hollis that no excavation work could be started until the building permit was in hand, which could take roughly three weeks. ICC will attempt to move this forward. Chairman D. Provencher noted that it appears to be a good faith effort on ICC's part and shows their willingness to and desire to work with MVD.

P. Pitsas drew the commissioners' attention to Engineering Service Request (ESR) #53 at this time. ESR #53 is for Wells 7 & 8 PFAS Treatment Facility Construction Phase Engineering Services and would be done regardless of who was awarded the bid. P. Pitsas noted that ESR #53 is under the allowed budget. Chairman D. Provencher asked how the ESR #53 budget estimate of \$408,200 compared to the Engineering Services estimate that was approved in the 2019 annual meeting warrant article for the Wells 7 & 8 PFAS treatment plant. K. Pratt answered that it was likely close, but slightly higher as construction costs have risen. K. Pratt further reviewed his notes and indicated that the construction engineering phase estimate in the 2019 warrant article was \$358,000 versus the proposed ESR #53 budget of \$408,000; and also indicated that the combined design and construction engineering estimate in the 2019 warrant article was \$729,000, versus a combined design and construction engineering budget of \$766,000, and noted that that is for a construction project that now costs about \$1 million more than estimated for the warrant article. P. Pitsas commented that the combined design and construction engineering was a \$37,000 increase.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ESR #53 FOR FINAL DESIGN AND BIDDING SERVICES OF THE TREATMENT FACILITY FOR WELLS 7 & 8, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$408,200, FUNDED BY WARRANT ARTICLE 3 FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF 2019, THE SRF LOAN, AND THE DWGTF LOAN AND GRANT MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER K. AYERS

A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Donald Provencher, Wolfram von Schoen, Kenneth Ayers,

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Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

b) Wells 4 & 5 PFAS treatment plant completion schedule

P. Pitsas provided the commission with an update on the change order summary. Underwood presented a change order summary at the May 18, 2020 Board of Commissioners' meeting. Pitsas noted that there were no changes aside from finalization of the cost to remove the organic materials and the credit for the well cleaning.

Pitsas informed the commission that the building is now fully enclosed with the exception of the gable end louvers and the gable end siding. The siding will be completed once the gable end louvers come in. Inside, the painting is roughly 90% complete, the plumbing and small diameter HVAC is also about 90% complete. The wires are being run for the electrical work and the process piping has been started. The excavation work has been completed on site aside from the work to tie Well 4 into the line, which cannot be done until the well has been pump tested and the pitless adapter has been installed. The restoration and gravel work for the roads will be starting the week of June 8, 2020. Well 4 has been drilled and the gravel pack should be installed by June 12, 2020. Well 4 development should be completed by June 19, 2020. NHDES has not yet approved the preliminary pump report. The current expectation is for the pump test to be completed by July 4, 2020. This facility will go online with only Well 5 to start.

P. Pitsas noted the electrical delay with Wells 4 & 5 and informed the commission that there were delays with some of the electrical panels coming from Mexico, due to COVID-19. Some of the panels were due to be shipped in July, the last one shipping July 23, 2020. Underwood has reached out to Penta to work with their subcontractor to find different LP panels and a different transformer, which would hopefully allow these items to be received by the end of June 2020, saving roughly 1 month on the schedule. Underwood was expecting new shop drawings from Penta on June 9, 2020, at the time of the meeting they had not been received. The transformer should arrive within one week's time and the LP panel within two weeks once the shop drawing is approved. Penta has requested a 70-day time extension. Pitsas informed the commission that he replied asking for specific information, such as the dates parts were ordered/expected, in order to justify the extension. He noted that the response was vague on dates. The initial schedule had a substantial completion date of July 31, 2020. Pitsas stated that Underwood is looking for direction from the commissioners on the extension request. Commissioner W. von Schoen stated that he believes it to be fair to highlight the stipulations in the contract with Penta, Penta can then decide if the cost is worth it. Pitsas noted that Penta is not currently over the contract time, however some of their delays could eventually push them over the contract time. Penta can still submit data if they feel the extension is warranted. K. Pratt noted that the contract does mention things outside of Penta's control, and Penta has claimed delays due to the pandemic. There is an expectation that Penta will make up for the loss with reasonable efforts and limited time extensions. K. Pratt informed the commission that Penta is making the same claim for the Turkey Hill project.

c) Well 2

P. Pitsas informed the commission that Underwood is still working on the preliminary design for Well 2 with the goal of submitting a 60% design drawing by the end of June 2020. The RSSCT run through EPS is roughly 50% complete. Water has been shipped to Evoqua to run their RSSCT.

2. Board of Commissioners to discuss request from Paul Lagasse to publish a list of odd/even watering violators and areas patrolled.

Chairman D. Provencher informed the public that a request had been made by Paul Lagasse to publish a list of odd/even watering violators and the areas patrolled. Chairman Provencher noted that MVD's legal counsel has advised that MVD cannot issue street address numbers and customer names. Street names can be issued. Areas are patrolled by priority, dependent upon which storage tank is being depleted fastest.

The request was for a weekly published list by neighborhood, broken down by commercial, residential, and other. It was noted that MVD has a spreadsheet that includes addresses, but it is not broken down by commercial, residential, or other, and doing so would take additional resources. To avoid using additional resources and incurring additional costs, the commissioners determined that the best course of action was to send information to include only the street name, date, and time of the violation, upon request.

3. Board of Commissioners to confirm the source of funds for the purchase of an Easement from Elizabeth Wright in Hollis, NH as a possible new well site.

At this time Superintendent R. Miner informed the commission that the vote to purchase an easement from Elizabeth Wright, in Hollis, NH, which was taken in non-public session, needed to be brought to the public session in order to remove funds from capital reserves.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN TO WITHDRAW \$100,000 FROM THE LAND ACQUISITION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING AN EASEMENT ON THE WRIGHT PROPERTY IN HOLLIS, NH MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER K. AYERS

A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Donald Provencher, Wolfram von Schoen, Kenneth Ayers,

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Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

4. Questions from the Public

None

5. Questions from the Press

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER D. PROVENCHER TO ADJOURN MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER K. AYERS

A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Donald Provencher, Wolfram von Schoen, Kenneth Ayers,

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Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The June 09, 2020 meeting of the Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Amanda McKenna, Recording Secretary