

EMMONS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Date: March 27, 2024

Time: 9:30 AM

Purpose: Selection of Engineering Firm for Sewer Project

IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Paul Henschel
Council Members: Imogene Opdahl, Eleanor Bauman, Neal Honsey, Gary Sorbo,
City Clerk, Lorry Zasada
Residents: Curt Honsey, Jerl Schewe, Kathy Sheehan

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mayor, Paul Henschel, who restated the purpose of the meeting is to choose an Engineer for the City.

DISCUSSION

Council was provided an additional written reference for ISG and information regarding a potential Municipal Advisor for their consideration. Peter Meidel of Northland Finance mentioned that the council should consider they will need a Temporary Bond as funds for the project do not come in advance of project completion.

Gary called V&K references and discussed their individual projects. All people he interviewed had positive feedback for V&K. He talked to Angie Thompson and Jerry Thompson of Lone Rock IA and former Mayor of Joice, Mark Tomah. Any issues in their projects were resolved to their satisfaction. Albert City used both ISG and V&K, they preferred working with ISG. Shelby MN had issues with sub-contractors, but V&K took care of all issues.

Imogene called ISG references, Anita had worked in Galva. Many of her contacts had a "City Engineer". Anita gave some good points on what to look out for in the process. They worked with CJ and Tom who were very knowledgeable and easy to work with. They held several Zoom meetings and were always kept up to date. Customers commented that work was done early and under budget. Liked that ISG had their own grant writers and finance people in house. Very happy with CJ who did almost all the paperwork so all the city had to do was sign off and submit. Shane at Tracy (pond system). ISG did a good job, also used Bollig for lining the sewer lines. Their project started in 2017 with Clearwater Grant to start. 59 block reconstruction street project, 19 water main breaks. Use PFA, MPCA and USDA grants and loans. All interviewers highly recommend ISG. Some had started with another company and switched to ISG mid project. Ruthven submitted a written recommendation for ISG.

Neal talked to Danny Martinson from Joice regarding V&K who did a good job, were on the spot as needed, kept prices down, handled funding.

Neal recommends eliminating Bolton & Menk and feels V&K would be the best choice and feels estimated cost is a \$3MM difference and V&K has done work for the city in the past. However, we do not have any cost estimated from ISG as they were not asked for that information.

Gary and Imogene like that ISG has everything in-house and they work together as a complete team. They do the Grant work and will process all the applications. Gary suggests that we need to ask ISG for a proposal and follow the USDA funding steps that Lance provided. Other cities recommend that a Municipal Advisor be used to help the city get the best possible pricing and solution and a Municipal Attorney

Neal insisted that we decide today the Engineering firm we are going with. "We need an Engineer now."

Imogene stated that we also need to get the land agreement nailed down for Easements and that we have an attorney well versed in these projects. She liked what she heard from other towns regarding ISG and how they handled their projects.

Gary stated that any costs we have from any of the firms at this point are just numbers on paper and we can't select a company based any cost estimate received so far. We need to choose a firm we think will manage us through the project.

V&K submitted a copy of another town's schedule, we should have the same type of information from the other 2 firms. Bolton & Menk have submitted an estimated total, but not details of what that includes.

Motion was made by Neal to hire V&K as Engineer to represent the city. Paul asked for a second, no second. Paul asked again for a second, there were no seconds. Motion declared dead. Going around the table, Paul asked who want V&K, only Neal. Paul asked who want ISG, Imogene, Gary and Eleanor all voted for ISG. Paul declared ISG as the winning firm.

Next steps, Notify BMI that once PER is complete, city is severing ties and request they provide a draft of the PER for ISG. Paul instructed Lorry to call ISG with the news and invite them to the April 8th Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Imogene made a motion to adjourn at 10:28 AM, Gary seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted By: _____