

Public Works and Buildings Committee

February 20, 2014

Council Chambers

7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Torr, Chairman

Councilor Ray Varney-Vice Chairman

Councilor David Walker

Councilor Sandy Keans

Councilor Donald Hamann

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilor James Gray

Dan Fitzpatrick, City Manager

Peter Nourse, Director DPW

Gretchen Young, Construction Engineer

Minutes

Chairman Torr called the Public Works and Buildings Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Approve minutes from January 16, 2014 meeting

Chairman Torr asked for a recommendation for the last month's minutes.

Councilor Walker made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2014 meeting as presented. Councilor Keans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input.

No public present

3. Great Bay Estuary Nutrient Criteria Peer Review

Mr. Nourse stated that NHDES and the Great Bay Coalition communities contracted for peer review of the NHDES 2009 Nutrient Criteria Document. The Peer Reviewers were asked to answer specific questions (jointly developed by NHDES and the Coalition), regarding the scientific basis for the conclusions reached in the DES report entitled "Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Great Bay Estuary" dated June 2009. The Coalition challenged the scientific validity of that 2009 document. The four peer reviewers are national experts that were selected because of their expertise in nutrient impacts to estuaries, including expertise in modeling for nutrient impacts, and expertise in eelgrass biology. Mr. Nourse stated that the results of the reviews are back and that they strongly favor the coalition's beliefs that the June 2009 document was not scientifically sound because it failed to consider several other factors that may also be affecting the eel grass growth in Great Bay. It recommends that additional work be undertaken. The report suggests the development of a hydrodynamic water quality model to better define system responses and identify appropriate nutrient reduction requirements in an adaptive management framework. Mr. Nourse stated that there is a meeting scheduled next week with NHDES to discuss joint coalition & NH DES public statements, and eventually

there will meeting with the EPA. Once those meetings are completed he believed that there will be another presentation from the City attorney's to the Council.

4. Project Status Update:

Crossroads Water / Sewer Extension Project - Mr. Nourse stated that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) opened today. He said there were 4 submissions. Mr. Nourse stated that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant officials have been adamant that our cost estimates for engineering are higher than the industry standards and the EDA has stated they will only reimburse approximately 6% of the total project amount for design engineering, and 2% for construction administration. Mr. Nourse stated that the DPW was directed to do an RFQ to determine if the EDA's suggested standards are the standard that the City could reach. The proposals submitted ranged from 4 to 7% for design and 4% to 10% for construction administration. Councilor Varney asked which company had provided the original cost estimates, and did they come down on that price? Mr. Nourse stated HTA had provided the original cost estimate and yes they came down fifty-eight thousand dollars on the proposal previously provided. Mr. Nourse further stated that we are still far apart on the construction administration estimates, but City staff has found some instances where the EDA had allowed the use of contingency to make up for additional engineering or architectural costs. Councilor Varney asked why this project was being routed down Salmon Falls Road and not directly down the Milton Road. Mr. Nourse stated that he would have to look into it, but his initial thought was that the project would then require a pump station and the cost would be significantly higher. Councilor Gray asked if the Autumn Street pump station was sufficient for flows going down the Salmon Falls Road. Mr. Nourse stated that it was. Councilor Varney stated that if the sewer extension was run down the Milton Road it would be more likely to pick up some significant users than the residences along Salmon Falls Road who would not be forced to tie in. Mr. Nourse agreed with Councilor Varney and stated that the main concern in the beginning of the project was for the Crossroads Industrial park, the project began as an Economic Development department goal. Councilors Walker and Varney asked that Mr. Nourse look into the reasons as to why this project isn't going directly down the Milton Road. Councilor Varney and Councilor Walker stated that if the road construction was completed in conjunction with this project they could have the center lane put in at the same time. Mr. Nourse stated he would look into the decision to go Salmon Fall Road instead of Milton Road and he let the Public Works Committee know. He further stated that as part of FY2015 Capital Improvements budget process he has proposed a corridor study for the Milton Road with the plan to determine cost for a uniform protocol for exactions that may be imposed on future businesses locating in the area.

Catherine Street, Sheridan & Glen project – Mr. Nourse stated that this project is still scheduled for construction this coming season and that the

informational meeting for area residents will be held on March 26, 2014 from 6-9PM at the William Allen Elementary School. There was discussion regarding sloped or vertical curbing and asphalt or concrete sidewalks. The consensus of the Committee was that concrete sidewalks would be used on main roads in the downtown area, such as Charles Street, and bituminous pavement sidewalks would be used on rural roads and side streets. Councilor Varney voice concern over narrow streets with vertical curbs. He stated some drivers are wary of pulling up close to the curb. Mr. Nourse stated that these streets have been widened and that the design team will present the plan at the March meeting and the Councilors and residents will be able to look at the road widths in regards to the curb. Councilor Varney asked that the meeting notice is sent to all Councilors.

Franklin Street I/I Project – Mr. Nourse stated that we are on schedule for bidding and constructing the Western Avenue Pump station. He stated that the engineers are still conducting the survey of the area. He stated that the 1st through 5th Street area has been challenging to survey and that the engineers are still conducting die tests to determine the direction of flow within some of the lines. Councilor Varney stated that residents are anxious to see improvements along Franklin Street and inquired if it might be an option to separate Franklin Street from the rest of the project to make it happen quicker. Mr. Nourse stated that he would look into the option and get back to the committee. Councilor Walker inquired as to the type of curbing and sidewalk in the neighborhood. Mr. Nourse stated that he was looking into paved or concrete curbing that was described at one of the previous meetings by Councilor Larochelle. Councilor Walker suggested that any concrete curb would drive the cost up and suggested paved curbing in the side street areas. Councilors Walker and Keans stated granite curbs along Franklin Street with bituminous paved sidewalks would be ok, like on Washington Street.

Strafford Square – Mr. Nourse stated that CLD is not going to be the engineering firm of record on this project. He stated that the department is putting out an RFQ for all types of engineering and that Strafford Square is going to be one of the sample projects discussed in the interviews with engineers. He stated that the department asked that the engineers describe a plan for implementation of the Roundabout Traffic Engineers (RTE) plan. Councilor Walker inquired as to occupants of 2-4 Walnut Street. Mr. Nourse stated that the Rochester Housing Authority is managing and renting the apartments. He further stated that they will need a 90 day notice to vacate when necessary. There was discussion regarding earlier notification and demolition.

Salmon Falls Road Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project - Mr. Nourse stated that City Council had approved a supplemental appropriation contingent on the NHDOT participation in the cost. He further stated that he does have that commitment from NHDOT for the same 90/10 participation as the original project. Councilor Varney

asked if the public meeting should be scheduled for March. Mr. Nourse stated that April would seem appropriate. He also stated that the project will have a May or June bid opening at the earliest and construction in the summer.

New RT 125 Pump Station Project – Mr. Nourse stated that last month he had informed this Committee of the need for a supplemental appropriation regarding this project. He stated that the project has gone out to bid twice now with the first bid being approximately two hundred and forty thousand over budget and the second bid being about one hundred and fourteen thousand over budget. He stated that sole sourcing on controls were removed and he believed that was the resulting one hundred thousand difference. Mr. Nourse stated with construction engineering and some contingency this is more likely to be an eight hundred and ninety thousand dollar project instead of the five hundred and forty five thousand dollars originally programmed. Mr. Nourse stated that the upgrade is necessary as this is one of the largest pump stations in the City and there have been problems. The funding source originally was \$525,000 bond and \$20,000 cash. Subsequently the City received CWSRF approval for the full \$545,000 and then approval for a STAG Grant of \$361,015.73. In December the City Council approved funding source changes for the original appropriation. The sources were changed to reflect those approvals, \$361,015.73 STAG Grant and 183,984.27 CWSRF. The funded total remained the same \$545,000.

This supplemental request is for the remaining CWSRF approved loan amount that would be \$545,000 less the previously appropriate amount from December of \$183,984.27. The request is for \$361,015.73 with a funding source of CWSRF. Mr. Nourse stated he would like a recommendation for the full council to approve the request.

Councilor Varney made a motion that the full council approves the requested supplemental appropriation of three hundred and sixty-one thousand, fifteen dollars and seventy-three cents with CWSRF funding. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Hall Annex – Mr. Nourse Stated that a request for qualifications (RFQ) for architectural engineers is out regarding this project. He stated that he had held a walk through of the Annex building for prospective consultants and he had eleven participants come through. Councilor Keans inquired about historical buildings experience. Mr. Nourse stated that this was a requirement in the RFQ.

Amazon Campground Water Line Extension – Mr. Nourse stated that the Committee inquired about this project last month and he has since found out that this project is out to bid and results are to be opened on 2/27/14.

5. Buildings & Grounds Management

Mr. Nourse informed the Committee that the supervisor for the buildings and Grounds division will be retiring soon. He stated that he and the City Manager were discussing ideas to assist this division to run more efficiently.

6. Other:

Snow Budget – Mr. Nourse stated that the snow budget was 86% spent as of today. He stated that the salt / sand account was at zero and that the salt stored would not likely be sufficient for the remainder of the winter. He has requested additional funds as of today from the finance office. Mr. Nourse further stated that the City's contact at the salt company has stated they have salt now but can not guarantee sufficient quantities should we wait to order. All present thought it was a good idea to order now to prevent problems in March.

Downtown Snow operations – Councilor Keans inquired about the use of a loader on the Central Square monument area for snow removal. She stated this piece of equipment is too big for this use. She state that she has asked about this before. Mr. Nourse stated that he would look into it.

Councilor Walker made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 PM. Councilor Varney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Clark, Rochester DPW Office Manager