

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 28, 2009
Chairman Steve Lee
Vice-Chairman Charles Julien

Members: Haston Lewis, Danny Millet, Charles Julien, Jaclyn Hotard, Darnel Usry, Ronnie Smith, Cheryl Millet, Dale Wolfe, Steve Lee

PRESENT: Danny Millet, Cheryl Millet, Steve Lee, Haston Lewis, Ronnie Smith, Charles Julien, Darnel Usry, Jaclyn Hotard

ABSENT: Dale Wolfe

BID OPENING REPORT/AWARDS:

Bid Openings - Paul Oncale - St. John Airport - Airfield lighting and nav aids improvements

Paul Oncale, Director of Public Safety, stated, "We opened bids this afternoon for the airport lighting project and navigational aids. There were four (4) bids submitted. I will read off the names and the bid amounts. Allrite Electric out of Baton Rouge bid \$664,500, Diamond Electrical Company, Inc. out of Baton Rouge bid \$550,276.25, Ernest P. Breaux Electrical out of New Iberia bid \$698,616.25 and Sun Electrical & Instrumentation, Inc. out of Addis bid \$720,293.75. The project was estimated to cost \$630,000.00. Administration request that we take these bids under advisement."

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to take the bids for the St. John Airport - Airfield lighting and nav aids improvements under advisement. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

Bid Openings - Brenda Labat - Walnut St. Drainage improvements

C.J. Savoie, Parish Engineer, stated, "Brenda has been having problems with her voice so I am going to read the bids. This is on the Walnut Street drainage improvements. The estimate on this job was \$220,000.00. We received seven (7) bids. I am not going to read all the bids. You have them in front of you. The low bidder is Phlyway Construction at \$197,493.00. I also recommend that we take these under advisement and give us time to review these bids and come back to you at the next meeting with our recommendation."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to take the bid for Walnut St. drainage improvements under advisement. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

Bid Awards - Brenda Labat - Air Curtain Incinerator

Pat McTopy, CAO, stated, "This project would allow the parish to incinerate its green waste and other woody type materials. As of now we have to land field it. There is a tremendous cost associated with land fields. We have a bid from Crochet for \$14,000.00 per month to man and operate the facility. In addition to that we have an unknown and I can't tell you what the dollars are going to be but there will be some other companies that do business with them with environmentally

friendly type of products where they will incinerate their stuff. For example if Entergy has a tree trimming contract with a big contractor and we can handle that at the facility. He will burn it and he will charge the company and the parish will receive a third of those proceeds. So it is \$14,000.00 a month, we know that going into it. It is going to be less because of the other work that he is doing. We strongly recommend that we approve this agreement."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Where is this going to be located?"

Pat McTopy stated, "We are going to locate it near the industrial park by the airport over on the vast acreage that the parish has."

Councilman Julien asked, "Let me be sure, everything will be biodegradable?"

Pat McTopy stated, "Everything will be green waste products. Timber type products. No toxics, nothing of that nature. We are prohibited from doing that. We do not intend to do that. We do not want to do that."

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to accept administrations recommendation to employ Crochet at a cost of \$14,000.00 per month for an Air Curtain Incinerator. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

Bid Awards - Brenda Labat - Vehicles

Brenda Labat stated, "We had four (4) vehicles. Our half ton extended cab we would like to accept the low bid from Hixson of \$17,434.00. The intermediate regular cab truck, we would like to reject both bids and obtain a half ton regular cab off of state contract. We are changing the specification. We sort of re-evaluated our needs and we can get a half ton truck that can better suit our needs for just \$2,000.00 more on state contract. The low bid truck for this was \$12,863.00. We would spend \$14,816.00 for the truck off of the state contract. The third item is a one (1) ton regular cab. We elect to take the low bid from Hixson which would be \$25,770.00. The one (1) ton extended cab, we had no qualifying bids on that one. So we again re-evaluated and looked at what was on the state contract and we would like to get a three (3) quarter ton extended cab off of state contract for \$21,257.00."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Who are these vehicles for?"

Brenda Labat stated, "These are in public works. I don't have those specifics."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Are we replacing older vehicles or are these just new vehicles?"

Clifford Bailey, Director of Roads & Bridges, stated, "We are replacing old vehicles. Four (4) are going to public works, one (1) to Mr. Mike Carmouche and three (3) to the public works department and one (1) on the West Bank. So Mr. Lipper will have one (1) and Joe Stockman."

Councilman Julien asked, "At the last meeting, Mr. Smith asked about work trucks purchased through businesses in St. John. I was wondering

if you made contact with any of those and did they attempt to bid on the new trucks?"

Brenda Labat stated, "Yes we did provide specifications to local vendors. One (1) bid did come in from a local vendor. They were not the low bid. In fact they were the wrong bid."

Councilman Julien asked, "We didn't get a new bid from them?"

Brenda Labat stated, "Well we are dealing with this event. This is a bid event and we have to come to a conclusion on this."

Councilman Julien asked, "So you didn't go back and make contact with them? I was under the impression that you were going to go back and speak with them because they had sent in the wrong bid."

Brenda Labat stated, "When you bid an item. It is advertised. It is either non-responsive or non-responsible. In this case the bids were non-responsive. They did not give us what we asked for. Bids are specific to what you ask for. If you do a proposal on a service type of contract, you can use your own judgment as to what you might like or not like. Bids are specific to specifications. By advertising, because we could have gone with state contract originally, but by advertising we tried to give the local vendors the opportunity."

Councilman Smith asked, "On those vehicles that you said we through out the bids that we had and re-spec the bids and went with the state contract. Is there any reason that we didn't contact the local vendors on those vehicles?"

Brenda Labat stated, "Again, we are dealing specifically with this event of bids. Now if you don't want to award that..."

Councilman Smith stated, "That is not what I am asking. You told me you didn't accept the bids that came in. You re-spec the vehicle out. So it is a totally different vehicle. Am I correct?"

Brenda Labat stated, "That is right."

Councilman Smith stated, "So did we, at that point, attempt to contact our local vendors to see if they had that vehicle available for us and at what price?"

Brenda Labat stated, "No sir I didn't because we need to come to a conclusion of this bid award. If you don't want to accept that we are changing the spec and go on state contract and get it than just don't accept it and we will start over again."

Councilman Smith stated, "I understand I don't have to accept what you are bringing me. What I am trying to say is that when you changed that vehicle, you could have called those vendors, what we asked you to do two (2) weeks ago. You could have contacted those local vendors and seen what price they could have given you on those vehicles the ones that you re-spec. Now if I am incorrect on that please correct me."

Brenda Labat stated, "Okay, I could have yes. I would need to go out. This vehicle is worth over \$10,000.00 so we would have to think of it

on its own. You see we weren't thinking of this on it's own. We were thinking of this as a materials purchase of over \$20,000.00, which state law requires that we advertise. So yes we did."

Councilman Smith stated, "You couldn't have advertised if you changed the specs of the vehicle."

Brenda Labat stated, "Well we are asking to change the specification right now. I am asking the council's permission. The public works department would like to change the specification at this point. Now if you say no, you can reject it if you want. We will start over again and we can go out and look for it there."

Councilman Dale Wolfe arrived at 6:25 PM

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "If it pleases the council. If there is one (1) particular vehicle in question, the one that didn't meet the criteria let's take that one (1) out. Go back out for public bids, which will allow our local vendors another shot at it. Usually, just being in the public bid world myself, if I make a mistake as a local business owner, it is over, that is it for me. The next low bidder gets the job. I know the specifications on that one (1) truck seem to be in question. So let's approve the rest so that we can get public works rolling. That one (1) vehicle lets go back out for local bid."

Councilman Smith stated, "My only question is, the one vehicle that we are talking about, that the specs were changed on, how urgent do they need that vehicle?"

Bill Hubbard asked, "Cliff what is the urgency on that vehicle?"

Clifford Bailey stated, "It is very urgent."

Councilman Smith stated, "It is very urgent? Okay I am fine with it."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept the vehicle purchases as recommended by administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat McTopy - Authorization to bid the Woodland Drive Bridge Project

Pat McTopy, CAO, stated, "As you recall the council authorized an inspection and engineering analysis of the bridges over at Woodland Drive. The analysis revealed that there are structural repairs that needed to be made. Based upon that, Henry DiFranco's firm was authorized to design plans and specs. He is just about finished in another couple of weeks he will be finished. We would like authorization to bid the project at this time so that we can get the bids timely and get that work done."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I appreciate you taking care of this. This bridge is getting worse and worse as time goes on. It is something that needs to be taken care of. I thank you for putting this on the front burner."

Pat McTopy stated, "So that the public knows, Mr. DiFranco also made

some recommendations in terms of signage, speed bumps and weight limits. We are working with a professional firm to assist us to make sure we do it in a safe and professional manner to protect the public and the parish."

Councilman Smith stated, "I want to thank administration and Mr. DiFranco. I picked up the phone last week and called them last Thursday I think it was. I called administration, Mr. DiFranco and Mr. Savoie and they immediately jumped on that to make sure that everything was taken care of to protect the public safety."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to authorize administration to bid the Woodland Drive Bridge Project. The motion passed unanimously.

Julia Remondet - Authorization to enter into various agreements in connection with the July 3rd Fireworks Celebration

Julia Remondet, Director of EDC, stated, "As with the Andouille Festival there are several things that you must rent. The lighting, staging, sound equipment, use of people's property for the gathering for the 4th of July. So we would like to ask the council to give us the authority to do these things."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into various agreements in connection with the July 3rd Fireworks Celebration. The motion passed unanimously.

Any and all other financial concerns

There were no other financial concerns.

Adjournment

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.