

ELY TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
September 14, 2020 – 9:00am

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Laakso called the Special Meeting to order at 9:00am.

PRESENT

Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor; Kim Wing, Clerk; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer; Carl Hosang, Trustee; Art Gischia, Trustee – Present.

PUBLIC PRESENT

Al Harris, Steve Wing, Kevin Nancarrow & Matthew Treado of UPEA, Darren Pionk of C2AE, Jeff Bal & Rob Anderson of GEI.

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Hosang to approve the presented Agenda. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

UPEA INTERVIEW

Kevin Nancarrow and Matthew Treado gave a thorough presentation of their services stating they have been in business for 63 years and have five offices. UPEA is a full service engineering firm. UPEA discussed various aspects of each Phase with their fee estimate being \$14,937.60. Trustee Gischia asked about any hidden costs and it was noted water sampling will be extra and after it is determined which testing will be required. Treasurer Schuhknecht asked about a possible sliding scale for seniors and low income residents as well as a rate study. Mr. Harris noted that communication is critical. Mr. Treado indicated a three month timeline.

C2AE INTERVIEW

Darren Pionk appeared on behalf of C2AE. They are a full service engineering firm out of Escanaba. The fee structure is as follows: Preparation of PER \$18,000, Creation of Hydraulic Model \$10,000, and Preparation of Funding Application \$7,500. It was noted that water sampling would be extra and there would be about a one year schedule to finish the assemble/organize/design part of the project. Mr. Harris asked what would be a good estimate for cash reserves. Mr. Pionk indicated approximately 10% of a loan system replacement cost.

GEI INTERVIEW

Jeff Bal and Rob Anderson appeared on behalf of GEI. The fee structure is as follows: Phase 1 \$14,700, Phase 2 \$2-5,000, Phase 3 \$9-12,000, and Phase 4 \$2-15,000. Mr. Harris asked who would handle water treatment. Mr. Bal discussed having a pilot study, getting in vendors for free. Supervisor Laakso again indicated communication with the water operator is critical and asked how they do timeline charts (Excel). Ms. Schuhknecht asked about a rate study and a sliding scale for seniors or those of a low income. Clerk Wing indicated the need for an income study in order to qualify for grants. Mr. Gischia thanked GEI for their help in preparing the RFP.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

BOARD DISCUSSION

It was the consensus of the Board to eliminate C2AE from consideration. Board Members along with Mr. Harris discussed pros and cons of the two remaining candidates. UPEA pros include: history with the Township, local, lowest in cost. Mr. Harris recommends GEI as he is very familiar with their reputation and has had discussion with various contractors who indicated no hidden costs, detail oriented, and likes the pilot study idea. Mr. Harris feels that UPEA has underbid and noted their strength appears to be upfront, becoming weaker throughout the rest of the process. Mr. Gischia noted the contract could have wording built into it dealing with any of those concerns.

Motion by Gischia to contract with UPEA, specifying concerns before signing of a contract. This motion died from lack of support. Ms. Schuhknecht was wanting time in order to talk to references. Mr. Hosang also requested more time.

Supervisor Laakso recommended the Board table discussion of this until Wednesday's Board Meeting and to add it to the Board Agenda. Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to table discussion of hiring of an engineering firm for the water systems until Wednesday, September 16, 2020. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Gischia, supported by Hosang to adjourn the Special Meeting at 12:30pm. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim D. Wing, Clerk