



## Rochelle Municipal Utilities Water/Water Reclamation

To: Edward Carr

From: Kathy Cooper

Date: April 4, 2011

Re: Kelley Drive Water Main Replacement Bids

In November 2010, the City Council approved an engineering services agreement with Willett Hofmann to develop plans and specifications for replacing approximately 1700 feet of water main on Kelley Drive between Seventh Ave. and Caron Road. The main is in poor shape, and since 2006, there have been eleven water main breaks on that section of main. The estimated cost of the replacements was \$268,000 if the work could be done in the parkway and \$333,000 if the main had to be placed in the street. It was determined that the main could be installed in the parkway.

Kelley Drive was scheduled for sidewalk replacement in the 2011-12 fiscal year, and the water main installation requires the removal of the sidewalks. Cooperation by Public Works (Don Elliott and Sam Tesreau) and a realignment of the water main, lowered the engineer's estimate for the project to \$222,524. Public Works' share of the cost is estimated to be an additional \$27,500 for materials and labor. The water main contractor will remove the existing sidewalk and perform the subgrade preparation work, and Public Works Department will install the new sidewalks. The water main contractor will be responsible for all driveway removal and replacement.

Subsequent to the required public notice, bids were opened on March 31, and eleven (11) bids were received. The bids were:

Hart and Sons, Rochelle	\$148,118.29
GO Excavating, Freeport	\$164,235.00
Stark and Sons, Huntley	\$169,067.00
Martin, Oregon	\$187,849.20
Stenstrom, Rockford	\$194,724.00
Northern Ill. Services, Rockford	\$194,950.80
Fischer Excavating, Freeport	\$199,261.39
O'Brien Construction, Polo	\$217,771.20
<b>Engineer's Estimate</b>	<b>\$222,524.00</b>
Wm. Charles, Rockford	\$223,385.85
Kelsey Excavating, Durand	\$239,846.00
Civil Constructors, Freeport	\$256,160.79

Matt Hansen of Willett Hofmann and the RMU staff reviewed all bids, and confirmed that Hart and Sons, Rochelle is the apparent low bidder. Section 2-372 of the Rochelle City Code states, "In all contracts inviting competitive bids, the city council reserves the right to accept the bid that it believes is in the best interest of the city." Although Hart and Sons has underground installation experience, they do not have experience in replacing and municipal potable water main and preparing the subgrade for sidewalk replacement. The water main installation will be in a trench that has been previously excavated, adjacent to a gas main, and require working around live services, which, I believe, requires a contractor to have water main installation and replacement experience. It is also important to have a contractor with experience in removing the water services from the existing main to the new.

I believe it is in the City's best interest to award the contract to GO Excavating of Freeport, as they have the experience and expertise to do the work. They recently completed the Southeast Quadrant sewer rehabilitation work, and many of their employees worked for Fischer Excavating on the Tilton Park water and sewer replacement project. Both of these projects were completed successfully in a timely manner. Additionally, less time is needed for construction inspection services when an experienced contractor is performing the work.

I believe it is in the City's best interest to award the contract to GO Excavating, and I recommend awarding the contract to GO Excavating for \$164,235.