

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

A Special Meeting of the Board of Local Improvements convened at 2:02 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009, at City Hall, Room 404, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois, and was called to order by President Gene Hewitt.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Board of Local Improvements Members in attendance: President Gene Hewitt, Secretary Randall Ray, Board Member Erle Currie, Board Member Jeff Smith, and Board Member Amy Benecke-McLaren – 5; Absent: - 0.

Others in attendance included Equal Opportunity Office Manager David Watkins, Project Engineers Scott Reeise, Laura Savorgino, and Tom Zenger, Engineering Division Secretary Ruth Blancaflor, and Chris Nelson of Oberlander Electric.

MINUTES

Board Member Currie moved to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 2, 2009, as revised; seconded by Board Secretary Ray.

Approved by viva voce vote.

ITEM NO. 1 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST from BODINE ELECTRIC OF DECATUR to WITHDRAW BID AND BID BOND for the LYNNHURST SUBDIVISION ORNAMENTAL STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT and CONSIDERATION of AWARD of a CONTRACT to the NEXT LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER. [Council District 5]

Board Member Currie moved to accept the request from Bodine Electric of Decatur to withdraw its Bid and Bid Bond for the Lynnhurst Subdivision Ornamental Street Lighting Improvement Project; seconded by Board Member Smith.

In discussion, Board Member Smith stated that their letter spoke to the main points of the mistake, though they didn't provide documentation. He said the contractor indicated to him that an error was made on their pricing for conduit, within their spreadsheet. He said their price was \$2 versus \$10 for the other bidders.

In further discussion with Mr. Currie, Mr. Smith said Bodine used the wrong formula to get to the unit prices in the first place.

Motion to accept the request from Bodine Electric of Decatur to withdraw its Bid and Bid Bond for the Lynnhurst Subdivision Ornamental Street Lighting Improvement Project was approved by viva voce vote.

In further discussion, Secretary Ray noted that this letter should be kept on file and this contractor's bids should be monitored for the next few years.

President Hewitt noted that the second lowest responsive bid was from Oberlander Electric Company in the amount of \$918,559.32.

Board Member Benecke-McLaren moved to approve the second lowest responsive bid for the Lynnhurst Subdivision Ornamental Street Lighting Improvement Project from Oberlander Electric Company and award the contract in the amount of \$918,559.32; seconded by Board Member Currie.

Board Secretary Ray noted that checking and approval by the Equal Opportunity Office had already been accomplished, so the Board was clear to award the bid.

Motion to approve the second lowest responsive bid for the Lynnhurst Subdivision Ornamental Street Lighting Improvement Project from Oberlander Electric Company and award the contract in the amount of \$918,559.32 was approved by viva voce vote.

ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION of STATUS and APPROACH FOR PROCEEDING WITH the Remainder of the Current FUNDED and UNFUNDED Special Assessment PROJECTS.

A) Information regarding possible Policy Change on Sidewalk Replacement Funding.

Board Member Smith disseminated a Summary of Special Assessment Projects to all members of the Board of Local Improvements. (See attached copy.) He outlined the current, funded and unfunded projects and the scenarios being outlined under each section of the Summary. He discussed the City's budget problems and the need to cut back on budgets. He said staff's initial 2010 CIP request for the Special Assessment Program of \$1 million had been reduced to \$200,000. Comparatively, he said the entire CIP had been reduced from \$23 million in initial requests down to \$7 million, so the budget problem was very serious.

Board Member Smith discussed the pending Gale Avenue project. He said the situation with the majority property owner had changed and it may be withdrawn. If that were the case, he said the Board would need to consider all the options such as keeping things in chronological order or skipping one project to pick up another one, etc., and decide on how to proceed with the other majority projects.

Engineer Scott Reeise outlined the proposed Gale Avenue project from Elmwood to University, with 570 feet along Gale. He explained that Parkview Church had started the petition process for this project. In the meantime, as is often the case, he said one of the properties on the petition had sold and the new owner did not want the project. Also, he explained, the church had unexpected repairs to their boiler and their capital funds had been exhausted. He said he told the church's pastor that he would provide an estimate of the cost so that he could take that information to his board for their consideration. He said the church owned more than 50 percent of the frontage on the project, so if they decided to pull out of the project, only one property would remain besides the property which had just been sold. At this time, however, he said there was nothing indicating the project definitely would be ended.

Engineer Reeise also stated that city crews recently had placed combination curb and gutter along Gale between McClure and Elmwood, at no cost to those properties. However, he said, the properties on the Petition would be assessed for sidewalk, curb and gutter for this project, which would seem unfair.

There was a discussion regarding delaying the project or placing it at the bottom of the list of neighborhoods awaiting projects and regarding the potential funding scenarios. No official action was taken by the Board.

President Hewitt stated, with the funding balances and the CIP requests, it appeared there would be a Special Assessment program next year.

In further discussion, the Board concurred to await decisions by the City Council about possibly funding changes and percentage shares for sidewalk programs. President Hewitt stated that past experience showed a greater demand for Special Assessment projects when there were higher sidewalk shares, due to the value seen in the actual percentage picked up by the city of Peoria for the overlay and other improvements within a project.

Board Member Smith stated that the percentages might not change but if they did change, he questioned whether the projects with majority petitions would remain at the current cost share or change to any new shares.

President Hewitt stated he believed the City Council would be supportive of leaving them in the cue for the percentages that existed at the time of the majority petition. He said his only concern was the confusing nature of the shares not having the same percentages.

Board Secretary Ray stated the project shares should either come in at the percentages in effect when the petition was signed, or the property owners should be allowed to withdraw it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Board Member Benecke-McLaren moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Board Member Currie.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Special Meeting of the Board of Local Improvements adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

/S/ Gene Hewitt

Gene Hewitt, President
Board of Local Improvements

/rmb