

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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To: Chairman Brian Cecola, Road & Bridges, Martin McLaughlin, Village President, Trustee Liason, Michelle Maison

Cc: Robert Kosin, Village Administrator, Village Clerk, Anna Paul

Linda H. Cools, Village Resident Advocate

About a week ago, I emailed a document to staff and the chair with specific questions I would ask of a civil engineering firm candidate. Today, I want to acknowledge receipt of that reply. I've also read the entire RFP packet prepared by the village as to services they are requesting

At the last meeting, Chairman Cecola mentioned that Trotter & Associates calculated a fee for their basic engineering services around \$103,000 excluding the drainage/culvert work. Since you provided their number publicly to us, could you share what the number given was for Gewalt/Hamilton and Baxter Woodman? Was it higher, lower, or about the same?

2. Previously at the last meeting I asked, what were the special services that "go above and beyond"? President McLaughlin followed up on that question, but the answer given by our present engineer, was "that it is dependent on what the village requests? Well, of course, it is obvious, but, that is really far from any answer. Residents want it identified, as to what the village has been requesting of you to do? But more pointedly, what is that total cost to our taxpayers for special services? Have you considered open bidding services for records management, audio and the weather station separately from engineering?) And really should these special services be part of the duties performed by a civil engineering firm?
3. Have you set a per hour rate for the engineering firm? If so what is it?
4. Right now, we pay Gewalt/Hamilton around \$380k, what does the village anticipate it will cost based on their past projections for drainage/culvert work, when it combined with the basic engineering number? Based on the figures provided to the committee, will they be higher, lower or about the same?
5. After reading the entire 2017 culvert inventory report, I understand the village has been increasing its transition from metal/plastic to cement culverts from 40-70%. Do you anticipate the village will make a complete switch to a 100% replacement? A secondary issue arose from the report that was culvert maintenance and clogged drains appear to be problematic due to debris and heavy vegetation. Question: Are culverts the sole responsibility of a resident or the village? What percentage of

responsibility does the village have vs. the homeowner to keep drains open and flowing?

6. Now that President McLaughlin took action on initiating an RFP for engineering services, has there been any consideration to enact a comprehensive drainage plan for the village? Would you possibly consider making a separate contract RFP request for the future? The Village of Carpentersville has a link specific to the RFP/RFQ's, why can't we do the same thing? Is it necessary to FOIA every request?
7. In light of the recent heavy rainfall and flooding area wide, has this committee identified any deficiencies or weaknesses in our emergency flood plan are you factoring in those concerns as to a final choice?

From the email reply I received from Chairman Cecola, and President McLaughlin, it suggests that you are nearing a final determination as to the hiring of a civil engineering firm. I believe residents need feedback from this board, whether in writing, verbally or otherwise; and regardless whether you act upon suggestions or opinions made from the public. The process must be inclusive and allow the us to engage in your decisions. I feel that we have only been given a very limited glimpse into your discussions, which is unfortunate because we all as taxpayers will pay the bill.

The final item I wish to mention is the snowplowing contract. Awhile back, the President and Village Administrator received memorandum from a resident regarding specific itemized charges/bills from Aspen. The memo basically outlined some glaring facts and figures that were researched at length. It also highlights some other incongruent facts that appear to have been overlooked. We would like this committee and the entire BOT to analyze some of the many charges that have been posted in the e-packets from Aspen from the past year. I along with others believe that this current company is receiving an inordinate financial remuneration a' la our taxpayers. It's time to open bid for this service. I personally have read the last two annual contracts the village has had with Aspen and was shocked at how poorly drafted it was as to the village's position. We need to move past a time/materials contract. It basically gives the subcontractor all the latitude and protections with respect to the work done at our village hall! Some of the fees and the expenses listed, have us shaking our heads in disbelief! So please start challenging the bills! (For instance, whose responsibility is it to check how many hours hand salting was done on village property consecutively over two days, or at what time crews completed work? Do you know with absolute certainty?)

As far as I'm aware, no one responded to the issues brought up in that memorandum, nor did they invite the public to come before you and share their

findings. Village staff, it's time to look at our contracts, every single one from the President, on down all BOT members. We all have the same goal- a municipality that will streamline service providers' costs, is that shared goal!

Thank you,

Linda H. Cools, Village Resident Advocate