

Re: Engineering Services for the Design and Inspection of Watermains
(Item 16, Report No. 25, April 1, 1974)

On April 1, 1974, Council tabled a request that Web Engineering Limited be engaged to provide services that are required for the design and inspection of watermains. Following is a further report from the Municipal Engineer on this matter.

As the Engineer points out, the question of having the number of proposals to be obtained fixed at three was considered by Council during consideration of the report of the Contracts Committee. An amendment to this effect was not approved at that time. Several amendments were attempted but the wording proposed by the Contracts Committee was the wording finally adopted and this reads as follows:

"The use of fewer consultants. The use of three qualified firms should guarantee a competitive situation in the areas of service and competition."

If Council now wishes to establish three proposals as the minimum number that must be obtained for utilization of outside engineering consultants, a motion to this effect should be passed accordingly, but you are reminded that such a motion has already been defeated once.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Corporation enter into an Agreement for engineering services with Web Engineering Ltd. for the works listed in the Engineer's letter of March 13, 1974. The fees for these services are to be in accordance with "Outline of Services and Scale of Minimum fees" as published by the Association of Professional Engineers of B.C. to a maximum of \$7,780 plus disbursements for Phase I and to a maximum of \$5,450 per month for Phase II.
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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

APRIL 4, 1974

RE: CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES.

We have received the Deputy Municipal Clerk's letter 3 April, 1974 advising that the Municipal Council on the 1 April, 1974 tabled the Manager's Report #25 dealing with the engagement of a Consulting Engineer for the design and inspection of watermains. We were directed to provide information as to why only two Engineering firms were invited to submit proposals for the design and inspection of the related waterworks projects.

In a letter 14 February, 1974 we were advised by the Deputy Municipal Clerk that the Municipal Council on the 11 February, 1974 adopted all the recommendations in "the attached report of the Contracts Investigating Committee". The report submitted by the Investigating Committee stated that the reports from Associated Engineering Services Ltd. and the Municipal Engineer should be read in conjunction with their recommendations. Each report is in unanimous agreement that fewer consultants should be used on future work. Although there was reference to the use of three qualified firms or eminently suitable firms to perform engineering work for the Municipality, there was no specific reference to the fact that it was a prerequisite that three firms always should be a minimum submitting proposals on any type of municipal work. The reference to the number of consulting engineers from each of the reports is as follows:

1. The Committee's report 10a: "The use of fewer consultants. The use of three qualified firms should guarantee a competitive situation in the areas of service and competition."
2. The Associated Engineering Services Ltd. report page 1 Summary, Item 8c: "The utilization of outside engineering consultants can be improved by the use of fewer consultants with increased competition in the areas of service and competence." Page 10: "We would suggest that the Municipality's interests would be better served if two or three consultants experienced in the municipal field were assigned to the municipal street development program on a conventional fee basis".
3. The Municipal Engineer's report, page 6: "We have found that three firms is usually a satisfactory number and certainly guarantees us a competitive situation in the areas of service and competition. To go beyond three in

number does, we feel, result in a lowering of desirable standards especially with regard to competence. Once having chosen three eminently suitable firms whom we know can fill the bill in terms of performance and who know how to 'price' the work they are about to undertake, I can see no harm to the Corporation in accepting an 'upset' or ceiling figure on design fees".

We would also like to remind Council that when considering the Committee's report there was a motion to the effect that there must always be a minimum of three engineering proposals and this motion was not approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Corporation enter into an Agreement for engineering services with Web Engineering Ltd. for the works listed in the Engineer's letter of March 13, 1974. The fees for these services are to be in accordance with 'Outline of Services and Scale of Minimum fees' as published by the Association of Professional Engineers of B. C. to a maximum of \$7,730. plus disbursements for Phase I and to a maximum of \$5,450. per month for Phase II.


MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

VK: pkm