

Downtown Revitalization Committee

Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 27, 2011

5:30 p.m.

Newington Town Hall

- I. **Roll Call:** Chairman McBride, Mr. Banach, Mrs. Cohen, Mr. Marocchini, Mr. Bottalico and Mr. Shields.

Others Present: Town Engineer, Anthony Ferraro and Engineer Consultant, Gary Fontanella of Milone & MacBroom.

II. **Public Participation**

Val Ginn, Wethersfield, Chairperson for the Newington Waterfall Festival, raised concerns regarding the Waterfall Festival scheduled for September 24, 2011. Ms. Ginn explained the complexities in re-scheduling the festival at a location other than Market Square. Although other locations are available to hold the festival, such as the Municipal Parking lot, Mill Pond Park and Constance Leigh Drive, she would like to have the festival at Market Square. Numerous speakers mentioned that for this year it would be prudent to schedule the event elsewhere due to the unknown status of the construction progress of the Streetscape project. Ms. Ginn thanked the Committee for their input and although not satisfied with the responses, said she would entertain options with others.

David Johnson, 52 Pheasant Run, expressed concerns of a statement made by the Fire Marshal Chris Schroeder regarding the Car Show. Apparently, the Fire Marshal had previously stated that the Car Show would no longer be able to be displayed on Market Square as the street will be too narrow after the Streetscape Project is completed. Chairman McBride explained that this is not the case, as the Fire Marshal had originally made the statement based on false interpretation of an article he had read regarding the width of the street. This misunderstanding has been corrected. The Car Show can continue to take place on Market Square after the project is completed.

III. **Market Square Streetscape Project**

A. **Project Update**

Project Engineer Gary Fontanella updated the Committee on the bids received for the project. There were 8 contractors who submitted bids for this project. The low bid was submitted by H.M. Nunes & Sons of Ludlow, MA in the amount of \$973,633.25. This bid was consistent with the engineer's estimate of \$980,000. Mr. Fontanella stated he is familiar with this contractor and has contacted the references. He recommends, therefore, this contractor be awarded the Streetscape Project for the base bid amount of \$973,633.25.

B. **Recommendation to Award**

Mr. Ferraro passed out a draft resolution for the Committee to consider awarding the project to H.M. Nunes & Sons. Mr. Shields stated the Town has the option to award to any of the lowest 3 bidders and preferred awarding the contract to a contractor who is based in Connecticut rather than Massachusetts. Mr. Ferraro explained that in addition to adhering to the Town's award process we must also be consistent with the DECD award process which does not provide for the

flexibility to award to one of the three lowest bidders, but is limited to making award to the lowest responsible bidder. The Committee read the draft resolution and approved a motion to recommend to the Town Council the award to H.M. Nunes & Sons in the amount of \$973,633.25. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 1 with Mr. Shields being not in favor of the motion.

C. Design & Inspection Services

Mr. Ferraro passed out to the Committee a letter he had received from Milone & MacBroom providing a quote to provide full time inspection services. He recommended the Committee entertain utilizing full time inspection services at the beginning of the project with the option of cutting back in the event the services become superfluous.

The Committee approved to utilize the firm of Milone & MacBroom for inspectional services for their fee of \$64,000.

IV. Public Participation

None

V. Remarks for Committee Members

Next regular scheduled meeting is set for July 18, 2011.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted,

Anthony Ferraro
Town Engineer

Town Clerk
Town Website