

BOROUGH OF BOYERTOWN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
July 25, 2023

A special meeting of Boyertown Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Frank Deery. Council members present in addition to Mr. Deery were Charles Heller, Barry Christman, Jeffrey Cascino, Keith Endy, Charles Neubauer, and Gene Gabel.

Also in attendance were Lorraine Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Jason Newhard, Spotts, Stevens & McCoy, Inc.; Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark, LLC; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor, and numerous interested citizens.

The purpose of the Special Council Meeting is to review bids received for the Madison/Rhoads Sewer Replacement Project. Mr. Newhard reviewed the Bid Tabulation and noted the low bidder is DOLI Construction Corporation with a Total Base Bid of \$1,364,455.00 and alternate bid price of \$131,765.00 for a Total Bid Price of \$1,496,220.00. Mr. Newhard stated the Total Bid Price is about fifty percent higher than the project cost estimate. Mr. Newhard noted bidders concern about the twenty foot pipe depth and the possibility of major rock extraction. Mr. Newhard recommended using ground penetrating radar to identify and measure the dimensions, depth and thickness of rock formations in the project area, and re-bidding the project in November. Mr. Newhard noted that this type of work can be done during the winter months. Mr. Newhard also discussed with council the option of installing check valves in the laterals of the homes on Rhoads Avenue and Madison Street. This option has a projected cost of \$690,000, and would require an agreement with each property owner. Council did not favor this option.

Mr. Deery called for public comment and recognized residents of Rhoads Avenue who agreed that the installation of check valves on the sewer laterals is not a good option. Residents also questioned why the use of ground penetrating radar was not employed prior to advertising for bids. Mr. Newhard and Mr. Endy stated that ground penetrating radar surveys are rarely used prior to advertising for bids.

Following all discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Deery, second by Mr. Gabel, to reject all bids submitted for the Madison Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project due to the high cost. The roll call vote reflected the following members voting "yes": Mr. Heller, Mr. Christman, Mr. Cascino, Mr. Endy, Mr. Neubauer, Mr. Gabel and Mr. Deery. The motion was approved.

Council directed Mrs. Loder to file a request with Berks County to extend the ARP Grant Agreement into 2024. The Berks County ARP Grant Program is providing partial funding for the project. Council also requested Mrs. Loder contact Concord Public Finance to begin discussion on financing for the project.

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There being no further discussion on the subject Mr. Deery made a motion, second by Mr. Neubauer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary