



City of Keene, N.H.
Transmittal Form

May 25, 2017

TO: Mayor and Keene City Council
FROM: Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee
ITEM: D.9.

SUBJECT: Underground Telecommunications Conduit Contract - IT Department

COUNCIL ACTION:

In City Council June 1, 2017.

Voted 13 in favor and one opposed to carry out the intent of the report.

RECOMMENDATION:

On 5-0 vote, the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee recommends that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute a contract for the installation of communication conduit and related materials with LJM Construction, LLC as a sole source provider. Funding for the project is to come from the reallocation of operating funds from Public Works Road and Street Maintenance budget, 02010-62331.

BACKGROUND:

Rebecca Landry, ACM/IT Director said excavation and surface restoration has become possible due to the planned installation of conduit by Eversource to support their new transformer equipment. Staff learned of this project after the FY17 budget was adopted. The IT Department staff and Public Works Engineering have been meeting with Eversource representatives to review planned activities and schedules. The Economic Development Action Plan supports the installation of conduit for the purpose of expanding broadband access for businesses. Eversource's ongoing work in the downtown represents a unique opportunity to advance this goal. Doing so will require the City to acquire easements from private landowners for which the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee has authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute said easements.

Ms. Landry continued the next step is to identify a funding source and contract for the materials. Eversource has contracted with LJM Construction, LLC for the excavation work and materials. It is, therefore, recommended that the City use LJM Construction as a sole source provider for the materials and services required for the City conduit. This approach will allow us to install conduits without the normal cost of trench excavation, backfill and pavement. Public Works anticipates available funds in cost center 02010-62331 "Street Maintenance." Staff recommends moving forward with LJM Construction as a sole source provider for the project and that 02010-62311 be identified as the funding source up to \$30,000.

Chair Greenwald noted there is a likelihood this conduit may cross some of his property. He clarified he will be receiving no money, or broadband connections. The only thing happening is there will be pipe installed on property he owns. Ms. Landry added this benefits the community as a whole.

Medard Kopczynski, City Manager noted the relationship developing between Public Works and the IT Department deserves mentioning.

Councilor Jacobs made the following motion which was seconded by Councilor Powers.

On 5-0 vote, the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee recommends that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute a contract for the installation of communication conduit and related materials with LJM Construction, LLC as a sole source provider. Funding for the project is to come from the reallocation of operating funds from Public Works Road and Street Maintenance budget, 02010-62331.