



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Council Session

Item G15

**#2007-122 - Approving Tree Grinding Services from December
2006 Ice Storm with O'Neill Wood Resources**

Staff Contact: Steve Riehle, City Engineer/Public Works Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: Steven P. Riehle, Public Works Director

Meeting: May 22, 2007

Subject: Approving Tree Grinding Services from December Ice Storm with O'Neill Wood Resources

Item #'s: G-15

Presenter(s): Steven P. Riehle, Public Works Director

Background

Ice storms on December 20th, 30th and 31st damaged numerous trees throughout central Nebraska. Streets Division crews began the cleanup work picking up trees from within street right-of-way on Thursday, December 21, 2006. Trees that were in the street or placed near the curb by adjacent property owners were taken by Streets Division employees and trucks to the snow stockpile site on East US Highway 30 (future Fire Training Center property). On January 1st, cleanup work resumed following the 2nd storm. On January 2nd, a truck and employees from the Waste Water Division joined in the cleanup efforts. Streets Division cleanup efforts were essentially completed on January 30, 2007. All of the work of picking up of trees damaged in the ice storms was performed by city crews.

Since the stockpile site is also used for piling snow, the tree pile needed to be reduced in size to allow for room to pile snow. The reduction in volume is eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) because it facilitates proper disposal of the tree debris from the storms. The grindings will be screened to pull out fines before being hauled to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) to dispose of in compost operations.

The cost to grind the trees is eligible for reimbursement by the FEMA as a volume reduction effort to properly dispose of the trees. The cost of screening the grindings and hauling to the WWTP to allow the material to be disposed of in the compost operation at the WWTP is not eligible.

The work of dealing with the tree debris from the storms is broken into three areas for tracking 1. Tree Grinding; 2. Screening; and 3. Hauling.

1. Grinding

A price for tree grinding was reached using quotes from an October 2006 Purchase Order for tree grinding work at the Solid Waste Division Transfer Station. Quotes for the 2006 purchase order were received from Fox Bros Hay Co, Inc. of O'Neill, Nebraska for \$385.00 per hour and from O'Neill Wood Resources, LLC for \$350.00 per hour.

The city's representative from the FEMA advised that the cost to grind trees should to be tracked by the cubic yard. The time to grind the first pile of trees was tracked at \$350 and calculated to \$0.32 per cubic yard.

2. Screening

Screening Work was performed in January 2007 on 1,875 cubic yards of screenings at \$0.75 per cubic yard for a total of \$1,406.25 under purchase order number 14764-00, dated February 22, 2007.

Screenings were hauled from the stockpile site to the WWTP stockpile site in January 2007 with 1,875 cubic yards hauled at \$1.50 per cubic yard for a total of \$2,812.50. The work was paid for under purchase order number 14764-00, dated February 22, 2007.

Discussion

The City procurement code limits the dollar amount whereby City Staff can hire a contractor to no more than \$7,500.00. Since the work performed exceeds this limit, council authority is needed to approve the work.

1. Grinding

The total cost for tree grinding to date calculates to 104,904 cubic yards @ \$0.32 for a total of \$33,569.42. Purchase Order number 14765-00, dated February 22, 2007 paid \$4,608 for tree grinding, leaving \$28,961.28 yet to pay.

To be certain, the cost was fair and reasonable. Total cost for the work of grinding the trees at \$0.32 per cubic yard was compared to the cost of \$350.00 per hour. If the trees would have been ground at \$350.00 per hour, the total would have been \$34,912.00 compared to \$33,569.42 if by the cubic yard.

There is approximately 4,000 cubic yards of trees left to be ground. This remaining grinding work will be bid out using informal bids.

2. Screening

There is additional screening work to be performed, but the work was delayed because the WWTP did not have room for additional screenings and the approaching spring weather reduced the chance of needing the stockpile area for piling snow.

There is approximately 6,000 cubic yards of tree grindings left to be screened. This remaining screening work will be bid out using informal bids.

3. Hauling

The WWTP has limited room for screenings, so we will have WWTP trucks and employees haul screenings to the WWTP for disposal in the composting operation.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Authorize The Mayor to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$28,961.28 for the tree grinding work.
2. Refer the issue to a Committee.
3. Postpone the issue to a future date.
4. Take no action on the issue.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council authorize the Mayor to issue a purchase order for the work.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the tree grinding work with O'Neill Wood Resources of Grand Island, Nebraska in an amount of \$28,961.28.

RESOLUTION 2007-122

WHEREAS, December 20, 30 and 31, 2006, the City of Grand Island sustained damage to public facilities and infrastructure as a result of ice storms in the area; and

WHEREAS, clean up efforts were performed by the Streets Division of the Public Works Department to clear trees and debris within the street right-of-way, with trees taken to the snow stockpile site on East US Highway 30; and

WHEREAS, because the stockpile site is used for snow removal, it was necessary to reduce the volume of trees and debris by grinding; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the city's Procurement Code, quotes were obtained for the reduction of trees and debris and on February 22, 2007, O'Neill Wood Resources, LLC, was paid \$4,608.00 for such services, leaving a balance due of \$28,961.28 due and payable to O'Neill Wood Resources, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the city's Procurement Code limits the use of quotations to the amount of \$7,500.00, and therefore, City Council approval is needed to approve payment of the remaining balance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that that payment of \$28,961.28 to O'Neill Wood Resources, LLC, of Grand Island, Nebraska for the grinding of trees and debris is hereby approved.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, May 22, 2007.

Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
May 18, 2007	☐ City Attorney