



Memorandum

10-30-13

To: Steve Giesbrecht, Borough Manager
From: Chris Cotta, Assistant Public Works Director
Re: Rasmus Enge Bridge Replacement Design

As you know the Borough is currently assembling materials for a partial rehabilitation of Rasmus Enge Bridge. This is due to the fact that the bridge is in very poor condition and we have not obtained replacement funding yet, so repairs are necessary to keep the bridge operational in the meantime.

In order to be ready when replacement funding is obtained, preliminary design work on the replacement bridge has continued and has reached the point at which some geotechnical and survey work are needed before the final design is drafted. We obtained a quote from PND for the next phases of engineering (attached).

One of our potential funding partners on this project, Petersburg Indian Association, has raised concerns about the Borough's preliminary design strategy, which is geared toward a replacement structure with a creosote foundation. PIA doesn't believe their funding sources will support a creosote pile structure due to environmental concerns. We are currently investigating whether this is indeed the case and if so, we may need to consider alternatives to creosote pile, likely steel pipe.

However, the geotechnical and survey work needed are the same for steel pipe or creosote foundation, so we can proceed with this part of the engineering work without fear of wasted effort/expense later on if our foundation strategy shifts due to funding source requirements. Plus we will be that much closer to having a design ready when replacement funding is available.

Budget-wise, the Rasmus Enge capital project fund (including the Denali matching grant for design work) has enough money left to pay for materials for the partial rehab, plus the proposed \$59,789 expense of the geotechnical and survey work. After those expenses, the fund will need to be replenished before further expenses can be incurred.

For the reasons outlined above, Public Works recommends going ahead with the "field investigations" portion of PND's attached proposal, in an amount not to exceed \$59,789. This would be considered an amendment to PND's existing contract for bridge design services. If you agree with this recommendation, please present it to the Assembly for consideration at their next regular meeting on November 4, 2013. Thank you.

Public Works Department

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