



OTTER CREEK
ENGINEERING

October 21, 2021

Mr. Dan Werner
Town of Middlebury
Department of Public Works
1020 S. Route 7
Middlebury, VT 05753

Subject: Town of Middlebury: Contract No. 2 - Washington Street Water Improvements
Bid Tabulation and Recommendation of Contract Award

Dear Dan:

We have reviewed the construction bids received on Thursday, October 14, 2021 for the Washington Street Water Improvements project to assist the Town of Middlebury in awarding the contract to the "lowest responsive, responsible bidder," in accordance with the Contract Documents. The term "responsive" generally refers to the completeness of the bid. The term "responsible" generally refers to the bidder's experience, qualifications and ability to administer and complete the proposed work.

Enclosed is a tabulation of the four bids received. There were no identified discrepancies that affected the bid outcome. Belden Construction LLC was the low bidder with a bid of \$1,986,895.00.

In determining responsibility, we have relied on our direct experience working with Belden Construction LLC (formerly The Belden Company, Inc.) on numerous projects in the past, including most recently the Court Street Water Improvements Project and the Town of Middlebury Wastewater Pump Station Improvements Project. In our opinion, Belden Construction LLC has the experience, qualifications, and ability to administer and complete the proposed work as necessary to be considered "responsible." We have not gathered specific information regarding Belden Construction LLC's financial status or capacity. However, we are not aware of any financial or payment problems associated with their projects. Further, this project requires both a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond.

Furthermore, OCE is satisfied that Belden Construction LLC has complied with the requirements of the DBE solicitation satisfying the "Six Good Faith Efforts" guidance to provide DBEs the opportunity to compete for work on this project. Based on the above bid review, it is our recommendation that the Town award the project to Belden Construction LLC. We have retained copies of the bid packages for our files and for preparing the Construction Agreement. The Town should retain the Contractor's Bid Bond until the project is awarded.

Please note that our recommendation to award is contingent on the receipt of an "Award Authorization" from Water Investment Division. Once that document has been provided, we can draft the Construction Agreement and provide the Town with the necessary documents to issue a notice of award to Belden. Please call should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Clark, P.E.
Principal / Senior Project Engineer

Cc: Don Haddox – Water Investment Division

Enclosures /1/
001-052 Contract 2 B2

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