

## National Capital Heavy Construction Association (NCHCA) / City of Ottawa

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### NOTES

**Date:** Friday, November 19, 2021

**Time:** 8:00 am to 9:00 am

**Place:** Microsoft Teams

### PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Sue Johns, Luc Marineau, Kevin Lamer, Britney McGrath, Joanne Graham, Elsa La Corte, Randy Dempsey, Meagan Wheeler-Cuddihy, Peter McKay, Sajjad Haque, Kathy Sutherland, Jim Flegg, Ryan Donnelly, Jude Tremblay, Wade Clouthier, Brian Simpson, Edson Donnelly, Paul Lemire, Brian Lane, Debbie Mohr Caldwell, Steve McEachen, Geoff Falls, Dale Downey, Darrin Alberty

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#### 1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Paid Duty - Availability remains an issue. All need to focus on using paid duty for situations where they are required under the Highway Traffic Act and avoid use of this strained resource where other measures may be applicable. Britany and Bruce will continue to liaison with OPS. City is looking at other approaches such as having contractor include in their price. Industry has concerns regarding this approach. City will discuss further with industry prior to any pilot project where police services are not reimbursable.

Follow-up – More discussion is needed. This may be included in an upcoming spec update.

Explosive Proof Pumps - Availability remains an issue. Explosion-proof pumps are not currently available with a three-month delay in delivery. Industry is looking for additional information on this requirement as their understanding is that this is not widespread common practice across the province and there are acceptable, safe work-arounds available that are commonly used. City's interpretation is that sewer systems fall within the code requirements for explosion-proof pumps. Meeting with City and industry was held on October 13th and no immediate resolution has been found.

Follow-up – A small working group to be set up to discuss further.

Social Procurement - the City indicated that the recent information on the tender cover page regarding certification as diverse-owned vendors is for information only at this time. The City noted that there is a commitment to move social

procurement forward at the City and how that can be achieved remains under review. City is looking for feedback from all industry partners. The City's long term goal will be to work preferentially with businesses that offer community benefit goals. NCHCA members noted that they are very responsible employers with significant community achievements. Additional discussion will occur with industry partners on the implementation of social procurement requirements in contracts in the future.

Follow-up – The Industry has set up a working group and will be meeting with the City next week to discuss the survey the City plans on sending out.

**City Reorganization** - The City is anticipating a reorganization that will take effect in January 2022, consolidating IS and Drinking Water Services. Asset Management and Planning will be separate.

Follow-up – The new Department will bring together Infrastructure Services with Water and Wastewater and TIES. The Industry shouldn't notice a big change.

2. Where is the City permit department siting with the Over Dimensional Vehicle permits for standard moves being valid for 3 to 5 days?

This is being looked at as part of the By-law review in Q1 2022. The City is open to alternative escorts for super weights. Rob will be asked to include more information with the notes of the meeting.

**Action – Rob MacLachlan**

3. SSM unit rates and the impact from the Excess Soils regulation for disposal of that excess soil

The Industry noted that cost of moving soils is going up and asked if the City is reviewing the impact this will have on unit prices. The SSM rates are for the supply and haul of material. The City is willing to discuss this issue in more detail through the Spec Committee with the Industry.

**Action – City to set up meeting with Industry reps.**

4. Update on the city's policy for excess soils

The Industry noted that this was part of the spec review but was removed. There is concern that not knowing the data on soils for dump sites at the time of tender makes pricing jobs very difficult. Bruce will request that this be put back on the Spec Committee for review and is willing to work with the Industry subcommittee on moving this forward.

**Action - Bruce**

Tracking will come into affect in January 2022 not just for City haulage but all industry haulage--specs don't come out into March. The City may do tracking similar to pumping records for input to province but is hoping to have a technology solution in place very early in 2022--in the meantime, if the contractor doesn't have a system in place, the City will look at tracking another way.

The City plans on continuing with project specific specifications until March 2022 and by March 2022 formalize current principles and expected practices in a 2022 specification. There is a need to advance and expand the 2022 specification commitment by all parties.

The NCHCA gave a presentation on this topic that was well-attended. It is posted on their website for anyone interested in viewing.

## 5. Vaccination Policy Implementation

Attestations and action/mitigation plans are allowing most outside jobs to continue. The City is going through attestations received to date to ensure all contractor have submitted their plans. Next week, individual attestations and action/mitigation plans will be reviewed to identify any gaps that need to be corrected and contact affected contractors. The City will follow-up with the NCHCA to discuss the frequently missed information from contractors on their submissions and how submissions can be improved.

2022 expectations will be different than what's been currently adopted. City staff, consultants and residents need to be protected from unvaccinated workers in normal operations. The Industry needs to move towards a more vaccinated workforce to continue to meet policy requirements. The City needs to be confident that the industry is evolving or low performing contractor's risk being excluded.

The Industry asked if the City can confirm that all City and consultant staff have been vaccinated. City staff, with the exception of OPS, that will be dealing with contractors have been vaccinated. For consultant firms, all inspectors on City projects are required to be vaccinated and no exceptions have been permitted.

The Industry also asked if the OPP or RCMP can be used for traffic control. The City is having ongoing discussions with the OPS on this issue but as of now this is not possible because of jurisdictional and legislative challenges.

## 6. Roundtable

Broadband Backup Alarms – when trying to obtain Noise By-law exemptions, impact to the community is assessed. Noise attenuation on projects is needed to have more flexibility in doing night work. The Industry noted that in 2019 a pilot project was suggested to see if broadband back up alarms were practical. Kathy to provide a list of firms interested in the pilot as the Spec Committee work proceeds.

**Action - Kathy**

**NEXT MEETING**

Friday, January 21, 2022

8:00 – 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams