

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, April 22, 2022

Time: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Place: Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Luc Marineau, Joanne Graham, Sanna D'Ornellas, Adrian Bagshaw, Britney McGrath, Carol Hall, Renjit Varghese, Robert Leach, Kevin Lamer, Elsa LaCorte, Peter McKay, Kathy Sutherland, Dale Downey, Bob Watson, Brian Simpson, Brian Lane, Edson Donnelly, Gary Beisheim, Ryan Donnelly, Debbie Mohr-Caldwell, Luigi DiNuzzo, Darrin Alberty, Paul Lemire, Steve McEachen, Nick Gianetto, Ivan Levac

1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Paid Duty - 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 contractors 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. The OPS will be pulling back from services that are not legislatively required. The requirements for booking OPS will be changing to include more information. The traffic control plan and traffic control and signal protocols will be required at the time of booking. There will also be corresponding changes to D-005 and road cut permits. Sgt. Nethercott will be attending the next NCHCA/City Liaison meeting to provide clarification.

Follow-up – Sgt. Nethercott was unable to attend today's meeting. He has accepted an invitation to attend the May 20th liaison meeting.

Explosion 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. A small working group to be set up to discuss further. NCHCA is ready to move forward.

Follow-up – The City and Industry have met and will continue to meet until this issue is resolved.

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

Follow-up – Meeting has been postponed to April 25th.

Late Locates - The City has met with Ontario One-Call and the Industry. The City will continue to be actively involved in discussions. A late locate registry is being contemplated. Bruce is reviewing the tracking sheet. The NCHCA is working on a submission to the Ministry.

Follow-up – The NCHCA has added more information for Bruce to review on the tracking sheet. The City is meeting with Pro Mark and CLS and will invite the Industry to attend the next meeting.

FTL and Upcoming Work - Concern was expressed on the accuracy of the information in the Forecasting Tender List. The list has been updated and should be more accurate. The list continues to be actively reviewed.

Follow-up – Going forward the list will be sent to the Industry when received by DCM not with the notes of meeting.

Broadband backup alarms pilot project update - Framework has been finalized. A consultant will be hired to do the testing, which is planned for May. The City noted that this would be very helpful for working in the downtown core at night. A site and contractor has been chosen for the pilot project. Additional information will be provided to the City's working group. It is anticipated that the pilot will run until December.

Follow-up – The Industry met with the City yesterday. The City have retained Explotech who is currently working on a literature review which will delay the pilot. If it goes ahead, it won't be until August.

Vaccination policy update – Attestations are no longer required. We are back to normal operations.

Excess soil tracking software update - The City will most likely go with Tracenet to track excess soils. This will be covered as part of the education series. The software will be set up so any vendor can use it. The option of using different software is available as long as it can feed information into the City's system.

Follow-up – Regulation implementation phasing has changed. The City is still moving forward. The City is still in discussion with Tracenet, but are looking at alternatives. Erin O'Neill will be invited to the next meeting.

Inflation and Labour Shortages – on agenda.

Price Guarantees – on agenda

2. City of Ottawa - Occupational Health and Safety Management System requirements in contracts over 10M proposed for 2023

Due to a backlog, some Industry members won't be able to obtain their Core 2020 certification by 2023 even though they're actively engaged in the process. It was asked if the City would consider grandfathering in companies with 2015 certification until they're able to complete the 2020 requirements. Bruce to review and respond. Supply has been taking a phased-in approach to certification. Reminders are put in the front of tender documents as deadlines approach. The NCHCA's H&S Committee is meeting next week and will try to ascertain how many companies are affected.

Action - Kathy will advise the City on the Industry's readiness. Bruce to respond to Industry's request re grandfathering.

3. D-005 s.2.8 requirement to submit signaler protocols

The Industry asked for clarification on what signaler protocols are. In response to a coroner's investigation, the auditor recommended implementation of protocols for police at signalized intersections. This requires significantly more information be submitted at the time of booking. As this is under Police jurisdiction, OPS Sgt Nethercott will speak to their new policy at the next NCHCA/City liaison meeting.

4. Costs due to inflation

NCHCA is concerned with rising costs and no way to predict price inflation on long-term contracts. Below is the response to the two points raised in the letter from the NCHCA to City dated April 19th:

- Awarding contracts as quickly as possible, preferably within 7 days of closing as this is the length of time that suppliers are guaranteeing their prices. We will do our part by encouraging suppliers to expand the window of guarantee.
Response – It is not possible to meet this timeline. Although the process can be accelerated, this will result in delays in awarding other awards. Joanne noted that the average turn-around time for last construction season was 30 days. Contractors can request this be done for specific projects during the tender period.
- Including a materials cost escalation clause in new contracts and applying a materials cost escalation clause to existing contracts. This would alleviate the risk to both the City and contractors.

Response – the City currently has a fuel index. Can the Industry put forward something for consideration of what would a contract clause could look like?

Action - NCHCA

5. Contingency plans for crossing existing sanitary forcemains

The Industry expressed concern that the recent plans received from Sewer Ops are costly and excessive and are not in the tender documents. They asked that they be communicated for future projects. Contractors to send project specific examples to Bruce to review and discuss with Sewer Ops.

Action – Industry/Bruce

6. Roundtable

National Day of Mourning – April 28th

Maintaining Relationships – Supply has noticed over the past three months that patience is low. The stressors of the past two years have taken a toll on employees everywhere. Increased patience and understanding are needed to maintain important relationships.

Disposal of contaminated soils – the Industry is hearing about capacity issues at various sites. Bruce to follow up with Erin.

Action – Bruce

NEXT MEETING

Friday, May 20, 2022
8:00 – 10:00 am
Microsoft Teams