

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

NOTES

Date: Friday, June 24, 2022

Time: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Place: Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Joanne Graham, Sanna D'Ornellas, Rob MacLachlan, Robert Leach, Erin O'Neill, Sajjad Haque, Kathy Sutherland, Steve McEachen, Debbie Mohr-Caldwell, Edson Donnelly, Darrin Alberty, Jude Tremblay, Dale Downey, Paul Lemire, Geoff Falls, Gary Beisheim, Nick Gianetto

1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

OPS paid duty officer requirements and protocols - Sgt. Nethercott's presentation was sent out with the notes of the previous meeting. Definition of signaler protocols still need to be shared with the Industry.

Action – Cheryl to reach out to Sgt. Nethercott for definition and send to Industry.

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

Follow-up – NCHCA to provide additional information to the City for consideration.

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. 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.

Follow-up – Draft spec has been developed but not put in place yet. Before doing costly conversions, the Industry would like to ensure equipment is acceptable to the City.

Excess soil tracking software update - Regulation implementation phasing has changed. The City is still moving forward. The City is still in discussion with Tracenet, but are looking at alternatives.

Follow-up – Erin noted that the City is reviewing all options to track soil. The City plans to be ready for January 2023. She encouraged everyone to read the specs in the tenders carefully.

Costs due to inflation – the Industry is concerned with rising costs and no way to predict price inflation on long-term contracts. It was suggested 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. The City currently has a fuel index and asked if the Industry could put forward something for consideration of what would a contract clause could look like. The City asked if the Industry was in favour of extending the fuel price index. The Industry could not provide a recommendation at this time due to lack of consensus among its membership. The City has a meeting scheduled with the GOTA to discuss their concerns.

Follow-up – The City is willing to have discussions with the Industry on this issue.

2. Fuel Price Adjustments

The City has received requests to include from Industry members. Bruce asked if there was any consensus from the NCHCA. The NCHCA is working on possible solutions to present to the City. The City has met with GOTA. As they are subcontractors, they have to work with contractors on their concerns. The City also recommended that they reach out to the NCHCA to discuss their concerns. There are concerns from the Industry that the Fuel Price Index is not covering operating costs and that this issue is an ongoing, escalating problem. The City is not contractually obligated to pay for cost increases and the contracts don't provide any additional mechanisms for it. It was asked how the City and Industry arrived at 7% in original discussions 15 + years ago for the fuel price index. No one had notes indicating how that percentage was determined. The City is open to discussions with the Industry on potential solutions/ideas.

3. Use of PPE

Proper PPE and H&S policies need to be followed on site. The Industry noted that City staff have shown up on site without their PPE and wearing inappropriate

footwear. Bruce agreed that City staff going to site need to be prepared. The Industry was asked to let Bruce know of any issues with staff.

4. HSMS requirements

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. The NCHCA have reached out and were informed that there are plenty of auditors. The City will meet with the NCHCA to discuss further.

Action – NCHCA/City

5. Locates Open Forum update

Approximately 60 people attended with presentations from the Industry, City, Pro Mark and One Call. The forum was solution focused and a collaborative discussion took place. The NCHCA has contact information for Pro Mark and One Call that it can share with anyone interested.

6. Labour Agreements

The City is concerned about possible work stoppages and the impact on its projects. The Industry is actively meeting with unions on labour negotiations. They will provide an update to the City as soon as one is available.

7. Roundtable

Dynamic Discounting – Supply asked for any feedback the Industry has on this pilot. It was noted that market conditions/timing may be impacting uptake.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, July 15, 2022
8:00 – 10:00 am
Microsoft Teams