



## Department of Public Works

**To:** Mayor Welch, Common Council Members  
**From:** Mark Langer, City Engineer  
**Date:** June 16, 2020  
**Subject:** North Janesville Street Sanitary Sewer – Bid Considerations

### Summary

Four bids were received via QuestCDN vBid on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. for the subject project. The Bidders and bid totals are provided below. A bid tabulation is attached.

Bidder	Base Bid	Alternate Bid	Total Bid	Bid Bond
BKS Excavating, Inc.	\$110,260.00	\$223,179.00	\$333,439.00	5%
Globe Contractors, Inc.	\$131,341.00	\$273,956.00	\$405,297.00	5%
E&N Hughes Co. Inc.	\$172,747.50	\$313,781.75	\$486,529.25	5%
Soper Grading & Excavating, LLC	\$210,164.00	\$320,746.00	\$530,910.00	5%

### Analysis

After analyzing the bids BKS Excavating, Inc. was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for both the base bid and alternate. The low bid submitted was approximately 40% above the pre bid estimate of \$230,000.00 for all parts. After discussions with the low bid contractor and other bidders they indicated reasons for the bid prices included material pricing increases realized in 2020, and the late bidding schedule combined with a completion date of fall 2020 resulting in a short window for construction. Two bidders who recently completed large projects in the City did not bid the work which may be a result of their construction schedule being full during the project construction window.

Correspondence with the homeowner of the failing septic as well as the Rock County Health Department indicate that a new septic system or sewer service should be installed “sooner rather than later”. This system has been added to the county records and is due for inspection in August.

Alternatives include proceeding with the bid award, waiting until August to understand whether the system fails the Rock County inspection and then deciding whether to proceed or rebid the project, plan now to rebid the project, or delay the project if the system passes the three year inspection. After evaluating the bids and discussing the project with the contractors who bid the project it is my opinion that the estimate was low and that rebidding the project will not result in substantial cost savings and could possibly be more. Postponing the project until later this summer after the septic inspection could result in additional costs to the project for winter construction or not being able to complete the project this year. Installing the main now provides sewer service when future septic system failures occur along



the route. It also extends sanitary sewer to the current City limits meaning any future extensions would be funded by the future user. In discussion with Finance Director Nelson the wastewater utility has funds available to complete the project. Additionally the project is assessable so ultimately the utility will collect reimbursement for the project.

### **Recommendation**

The bid submitted acknowledged the required items for a responsive bid, including a 5% bid bond. The contractor has successfully completed past projects for the City of Milton while named GMS Excavators, Inc. Based on the above, the low responsive and responsible bidder is BKS Excavating, Inc. for the base bid, alternate bid, and total bid. Based on the above information, it is Staff's recommendation to award the base and alternate bid to BKS Excavating for a total bid of \$333,439.00.