



December 29, 2021

Dave Schumacher, P.E.
Superintendent of Water Production
City of Aurora
44 East Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60507

*Re: 190299055-00 Normal Pressure System Master Meter
Replacement, Bid Recommendation*

Dear Mr. Schumacher:

This letter presents an evaluation of the bids received for the Normal Pressure System (NPS) Master Meter Replacement project.

The NPS Master Meter Replacement work includes, but is not limited to, the installation of two new insertion flow meters in new vaults on existing potable water transmission mains at the Water Treatment Plant, including electrical work to provide power and controls to the meters, and all related work necessary to complete the project in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The NPS Master Meter Replacement project was advertised on November 30, 2021. The Bid Opening was held on December 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall at which time four (4) bids were received, opened, and read aloud publicly via virtual meeting. A certified bid tab is attached.

Performance Construction & Engineering, LLC (PCE) was the apparent low bidder in the amount of \$367,800. PCE has been in business for approximately six years and has successfully bid and completed over \$8.7 million in municipal and private contracts. PCE has completed water main improvement work for several local communities, including the City of Aurora. PCE has supplied everything necessary for a complete and responsive bid.

As shown in the bid tab, PCE's bid for the project is higher than the Engineer's Estimate of \$250,165 by approximately 47%. To establish the engineer's estimate, historical values for similar types of work were used along with published material costs and recent manufacturer's quotes to form the basis for the estimate; however, unprecedented labor and supply chain shortages and the recent pandemic have made estimating the cost of work particularly challenging. A review of the bids for the project indicates a 7.9% difference between the two low bidders. Given the number of qualified bidders and the reasonable spread of bids received, we believe the bids accurately reflect a fair cost for the work.

Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. reached out to several of the references listed by PCE. The feedback received was very positive about PCE's work ability, quality, timeliness

and reliability; references indicated that they would recommend PCE for future projects if PCE was the low bidder. In addition, the work ethic of PCE is known by City of Aurora staff, as PCE has performed work for the City of Aurora previously, and the president of PCE is a former City of Aurora employee. Based on our knowledge and the information provided by PCE, they have never failed to complete any work awarded to them and have never defaulted on a contract.

Based on the above information, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. recommends that the City award the construction of the NPS Master Meter Replacement to the lowest, responsive bidder, Performance Construction and Engineering, LLC of Plano, Illinois, in the amount of \$367,800.

As specified in the contract documents the Owner has ninety (90) days from the day of Bid Opening to give the successful bidder a Notice of Award. Action is required by March 22, 2022. We are available at your convenience to discuss any of the information presented herein. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding any of the above information.

Sincerely,

CRAWFORD, MURPHY & TILLY, INC.



Micah R. Pitner, P.E.

Cc: Rick Munson, P.E. – City of Aurora