

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
December 16, 2014	

TO: Mayor Shoji and City Councilors

FROM: Jim Hossley, Public Works Director

THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE: After the Fact Emergency Sewer Repair Project at Michigan Avenue between Empire Boulevard and S. Marple Street

BACKGROUND:

A sinkhole was reported on Tuesday afternoon November 25, 2014. The sinkhole was located on Michigan Avenue between Empire Boulevard and S. Marple Street. City Staff discovered that the sinkhole was approximately 11.5 feet deep, 30 feet long, and 6 feet wide. Staff could also observe that a small section of the sewer pipe was missing, approximately 6 feet. When staff attempted to televise the pipe, a full investigation could not be performed because of concern that the pipe was in such deteriorated condition that the camera would become jammed or trapped in one of the missing sections of pipe. However staff was able to confirm there were no significant blockages in the pipe.

Because of the significant size of the sinkhole, the discovery of the sinkhole two days before Thanksgiving, and the lack of availability of local contractors to remedy the situation, it was decided that only the portion of pipe around the sinkhole would be repaired for as an interim solution. In addition to the sinkhole being a safety concern, it had to be repaired quickly because of the likelihood that it would get larger and cause more damage if left unattended. The ultimate solution is to consult with an engineer, prepare plans and specifications, and replace the entire segment of pipe, approximately 270 feet.

Staff was able to coordinate with Benny Hempstead Excavating, Inc. on the same day the sinkhole was discovered. The contractor mobilized a crew the next day and repaired the 6 feet of pipe and backfilled the sinkhole with rock. For the City to expedite the repair, the City's purchasing rules (Ordinance No. 365) do allow for a contracting method that is different than the normal approach. Section 11 (titled Emergency Contracts) of the City's Purchasing Rules allows the Director to declare an emergency which authorizes the City to enter into an emergency contract with a price under \$50,000. Additionally, the Director must provide written findings, which are described below, to make a prompt execution of the contract.

In accordance with Section 11 (a) (1) of the City's purchasing rules, the findings describing the emergency conditions necessitating the prompt execution of the contract are as follows:

Sinkholes not only affect the public sewer line, but also may affect private laterals and adjacent utilities (gas, power, fiber optics, storm etc.). Additionally, the larger a sinkhole the more damage it can potentially cause and thus can be more costly to repair. Furthermore, the sewer is not being safely conveyed to the downstream system. The raw sewage has the potential to contaminate the soil around the pipe due to the missing sections and cause

further sinkholes and damage to the street, adjacent sewer laterals and adjacent utilities. Broken sewer pipes can release dangerous amounts of potentially harmful bacteria and it can release dangerous gases. Sewer gas can find its way through cracks in the road, sidewalks and yards (gopher holes etc.). All of these situations have the potential to affect public health. To ensure no further damages occur and to protect public health, a portion of the main sewer line along Michigan Avenue between Empire Boulevard and S. Marple Street had to be replaced as soon as possible.

ADVANTAGES:

Awarding the contract through the City's emergency procurement process allowed the City to meet the time constraints in place that required the repair be made as soon as possible. The timely repair minimized further damage to the adjacent businesses and property, and potentially prevented any further damage from occurring to this section of pipe until an ultimate solution can be implemented.

DISADVANTAGES:

Project was not competitively bid.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Due to the emergency nature of the project, it was determined to contract with Benny Hempstead Excavating Inc. on a time and material basis. Staff was on site at all times to observe and direct work. The total repair cost was \$7,714.30. The source of funds for this contract is the Wastewater Expenditures Fund, Collection Systems/Sanitary Department, and Wastewater Emergency Repairs (29-810-530-3010).

RELATED CITY GOAL:

The approval of this amendment will help the City meet the goal that states, "Infrastructure and Services: To maintain and improve the City's physical infrastructure and provide quality services for current and future citizens." This project will help Ensure that the City can protect and enhance the useful life of their utilities and facilities.

ACTION REQUESTED:

If it pleases the Council, approve the award of the emergency contract (after the fact) for the sanitary sewer repair project at Michigan Avenue between Empire Boulevard and S. Marple Street to Benny Hempstead Excavating Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$7,714.30 pursuant to the Emergency Contract rules found in Section 11 of City of Coos Bay Ordinance No. 365.