

Public Safety Building Committee Meeting

January 12, 2021

3:00 PM

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attending: Joe Magnani, Steve Mitchell, Vin Alfano, Brett Walker, Keith Robie, Michael Herbert, Peter Chisholm, Jenn Ball

Guests: Jon Lemieux (Vertex) and Ashley Place

Joe Magnani opened the meeting. Joe asked if everyone had an opportunity to return the 12/29/20 meeting minutes. Steve Mitchell made a motion to accept the minutes with changes to the date. Vin Alfano seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Joe Magnani asked Jon Lemieux, the Town's OPM for the project, to provide an update on the reference checks and vetting of the lowest bidder. Jon Lemieux explained that he and Jenn had been working their way through the reference checks. The Laborer's Union and Carpenter's Union has reached out to the Town on a number of occasions to alert the Town that the apparent low bidder has several low DCAMM evaluation and may be decertified. Jon reported that he has reached out to DCAMM and they have not indicated that the low bidder will be decertified based on their past performance. Vertex has build four successful projects with the low bidder. Jon reported that he was still confident that the low bidder could build Ashland a high quality building. Jenn Ball had talked with the OPM for the current MassDOT District 3 project, Hopkinton Facilities Department, West Bridgewater OPM – each of these references explained that there were some issues with sub trade contract and project timeline management. It was also clear that these projects had other issues such as issues with the architect's drawings or town budgetary issues. Jenn Ball is continuing to work through the project list. Jon Lemieux and Vin Alfano spoke to the Medford Police Department who reported that they were pleased with the final building. The low bidder was the general contractor that built the Southborough Public Safety building last year – Jenn has called Mr. Purple to obtain their feedback on their recent experience with the contractor.

The Committee did express some concern about the low bidder and asked Jon Lemieux, Michael and Jenn to have a conversation with the low bid to ask about past performance and proposed project team.

The Committee then discussed the scheduled Public Forums. Ashley Place presented her thoughts for a slide presentation. She presented the 1-pager informational sheets that she drafted. She planned to use these as the outline for slides. The committee agreed that Michael, Jenn and Ashley should utilize the 1-pager to finalize a presentation. It was also agreed that Michael would present the information. The Committee also agreed to ask WACA to do some additional promotion for the forums to reach a broader audience. Ashley planned to send out a reminder via social media channels.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to adjourn. Vin Alfano seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

