

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: 2021/22 SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION DESIGN – (AMES HIGH SCHOOL AND VEENKER GOLF)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ames High School & Veenker Rehabilitation Project is a high priority project for our Sanitary Sewer System. The proposed project will repair trunklines that are part of the main Clear Creek Interceptor line that serves much of the existing city as well as growth areas identified in the 2040 Ames Plan, including Dankbar/Meunch, and West Lincoln Way. Reliable sanitary sewer capacity is critical to support the existing City users and these future developments.

The existing sanitary pipes in these areas have moderate to severe defects including some voids, cracks, fractures, and root intrusions that partially block flow. A section of this trunk line had emergency repairs in 2018 to fix a collapsed pipe due to streambank washout. These pipes are located near Ames High School in the Pohl Prairie State Preserve, in Veenker Golf Course, and in Pammel Woods. **Due to sensitive nature of these surrounding areas, it is best to prevent emergency repairs and major excavations. The proposed project will repair the defects using trenchless technologies (CIPP, etc) and contractors will be directed to a pre-identified access route to limit impact during construction.**

On February 23, 2021, a professional services agreement contract with WHKS of Ames, Iowa was approved in the amount not to exceed \$222,000 for design of 2021/22 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation (Ames High School and Veenker Golf). **This is the eighth rehabilitation project and was selected to have an immediate impact by removing infiltration and inflow (I/I) in sewer mains that are older and installed with non-sealed joints, the industry standard at the time. By eliminating I/I in these mains, the sanitary sewer system will regain needed capacity.**

On September 21, 2022, bids for the project were received as follows:

<b><i>Bidder</i></b>	<b><i>Base Bid Amount</i></b>
Engineer's estimate	\$2,140,000.00
Municipal Pipe Tool Co. LLC	\$3,791,558.69
Visu – Sewer, Inc.	\$3,910,319.50

Staff reviewed the bids and identified two items significantly higher than expected:

- 1) Bypass pumping was the most significant where its unit bid price was \$990,000 compared to the engineer's cost opinion of \$30,000. Both bids received from Municipal Pipe Tool and Visu-Sewer were in the \$990,000 range. Staff contacted both bidders about the bypass pumping bids. They stated that **the condition of the lines would require dewatering to remove roots and debris as part of the preparatory work prior to lining and again during lining and that the duration of that bypassing could be several months**. So, although the working time limits are generally late fall and winter months when low flows are typical, both bidders thought it would be prudent to plan on late winter melt or other high flow event and planned the bypassing accordingly.

**The breakdown of the bypass pumping cost was approximately \$400,000 pump rental and remaining \$600,000 was driven by labor and fuel costs to run the bypass pumps. Bidders were asked if bypass pumping costs could be brought down by rebidding at a later date. They indicated possible savings of only up to \$100,000 may be gained in bidding later, but in general the magnitude of this bid item will not change by rebidding it.**

- 2) The second bid item that was significantly higher was site access. **All three of the project areas are sensitive and protected areas with difficult terrain and topography to bring in the necessary repair equipment. Staff worked with ISU and IDNR during design to identify the access routes that would be acceptable to the property owners. The project requires contractors to protect these areas and to restore to equal or better condition after the project is completed. The low bid unit price was \$241,000 compared to engineer's cost opinion of \$25,000. Access during frozen conditions and using drive-over mats to protect the golf course and prairie areas is the major cost driver of this item.**

Revenues and expenses associated with this program are estimated as follows:

	Revenue	Expenses
2021/22 State Revolving Fund	\$ 3,922,000	
2021/22 Sewer Utility Fund	\$ 350,000	
<b>2021/22 Sanitary Sewer Rehab</b>		<b>\$3,791,558.69</b>
Engineering/Administration (Est.)		\$ 222,000.00
	<u>\$ 4,272,000</u>	<u>\$4,013,558.69</u>

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. a. Accept the report of bids for the 2021/22 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – (Ames High School and Veenker Golf) project.  
  
b. Approve the final plans and specifications for this project.  
  
c. Award the 2021/22 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – (Ames High School and Veenker Golf) project. to Municipal Pipe Tool Co. LLC of Hudson, Iowa in the amount of \$3,791,558.69.
2. Award the contract to one of the other bidders.
3. Do not proceed with this project.

## **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

This project advances City Council's commitment to improve the sanitary sewer system. This is the eighth of several large projects that will have an immediate impact by removing inflow & infiltration to regain valuable capacity in the City's existing sanitary sewer system.

**Two items were found to be significantly higher than expected. Discussions with the contractors found that the prices bid for these items were actually in-line with the requirements and duration of work necessary for the project and protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Rebidding would not have any significant impact on lowering these costs.**

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.