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NARRAGANSETT TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: June 17, 2024
FROM: Jonathan Gerhard, Town Engineer
DEPARTMENT: Engineering Department

SUBJECT:

A MOTION TO APPROVE, RATIFY, AND CONFIRM the emergency electrical repairs for the Stanton wastewater pump station completed by E.W. Audet & Sons, Inc., in amount of \$8,324.79.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

The Stanton wastewater pump station experienced a power failure on May 16, 2024. There was no widespread utility power outage in the area and the Wastewater Division contacted Rhode Island Energy to investigate the cause of the power outage. The pump station maintained continuous operations using the onsite standby generator to provide power to the pumps and controls. Following their inspection, RI Energy stated that the source of the outage was within the Town's electrical system due to a rodent nest they found in our disconnect box. E.W. Audet & Sons, Inc. holds the General Electrical Services Contract as awarded by the Town Council on June 7, 2021 (one (1) year period), extended for an additional one (1) year period on June 20, 2022, and extended for an additional one (1) year period on June 19, 2023 (valid through June 6, 2024).

An emergency Purchase Order #20244771 was issued for E.W. Audet to investigate the situation and make the necessary repairs. E.W. Audet cleaned out the disconnect box and diagnosed the problem as a blown fuse. After replacing the fuse and testing the voltage, E.W. Audet closed the disconnect switch to restore power to the pump station, upon which the disconnect box and the utility meter adjacent to the disconnect box both exploded and caught on fire. Fortunately, E.W. Audet's electrician and the Wastewater operators on site were not injured and were able to put the fire out using the fire extinguisher from the pump station. The Wastewater Division subsequently coordinated with E.W. Audet and RI Energy to replace the damaged equipment and restore utility power to the station. The Town has filed an insurance claim with the RI Interlocal Trust to secure reimbursement to the extent possible.

The current Town Council policy on these contracts requires Town Council approval for all work orders that exceed \$4,000.00. Due to the damage that occurred from the fire, the cost of the work exceeded this threshold and requires Town Council approval. The Town Manager granted permission to process payment for this emergency work and Purchase Order #20244771 was revised and payment was issued,

accordingly.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Funding was available in the Wastewater Enterprise Fund Account #0032 50506, Equipment Maintenance and Repairs.

ATTACHMENTS:

[EW Audet WW.pdf](#)