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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - Engineering Division**

**MEMO**

TO: Members of the Finance and Utilities Committees

FROM: Ross Buetow, Deputy Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Sole source purchase of 42" water main pipe materials – South Oneida Street

DATE: October 19, 2016

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The Department of Public Works is working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) on the design and reconstruction of South Oneida Street, planned to occur during 2017 and 2018. As part of the design process, WisDOT has informed the City that our existing 42" diameter water transmission line will need to be lowered at three locations to avoid future conflicts with their proposed storm system design. WisDOT is paying 90% of the cost, but the City is responsible for designing and bidding these water main relocations.

We have researched our records from the original pipe installation (1969) and were able to identify the original pipe manufacturer, US Pipe (aka Cretex), who is still in business today. We have reached out to this vendor to gather information on the logistics of the required pipe relocations. Under normal circumstances, the City would complete the design and require the contractor to purchase and install the main as part of their bid. However, due to the complexity of relocating this type of infrastructure and the extensive lead time to manufacture and deliver this type of pipe, there is not sufficient time between the design/bidding phase and the start date of construction to allow the contractor to purchase the pipe and still meet WisDOT's required schedule.

Therefore, we are requesting permission for the Department of Public Works to obtain sole source pricing and purchase all water main piping and associated fittings from the original pipe vendor (US Pipe) as needed to complete this project. In this circumstance, the sole source purchase of these pipe materials offers the following critical advantages to the City:

- The pipe material (PCCP) is a hybrid design primarily used for large transmission mains. PCCP consists of a concrete core, a thin steel cylinder, high tensile pre-stressing wires and a mortar coating. Our South Oneida Street transmission main and raw water line are the only locations in Appleton where this pipe has been used.
- US Pipe has in-depth knowledge of the existing pipe material and still maintains accurate records of the original 1969 installation, which will be invaluable in assisting the City during the design process.
- By using the original vendor, we have added assurance of consistency in materials between the original pipe materials and those we will be installing as part of this project.

- US Pipe is the only Midwest (Illinois) manufacturer of this type of pipe. The only other vendors are located in New Jersey, California or Ontario Canada. This will greatly reduce shipping costs and delivery times.
- US Pipe has design and support staff within driving distance of Appleton to assist us during the design and installation phases, which is not possible for the other vendors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of our request.