



# Memo

**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council,

**From:** Utility Superintendent Victor Kane

**CC:** City Administrator Dylan Mulfinger

**Reference:** 4th Ave NE Sanitary Sewer Task Order

**Date:** 11/19/2020

Greetings,

Per our two-part strategy with FOX Engineering it is time to move forward the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE sanitary sewer project. Part one was for FOX to submit an application for the water main project for a Community Development Block Grant "CDBG" and a low interest loan from the State Revolving Fund "SRF". The application was successful and we received the requested SRF loan amount and a \$600,000 CDBG for the water main project.

Part two was to delay the sewer project due to the difficulty of receiving a CDBG for two projects in the same year. We are now set to move forward with a study of the affected sanitary sewer areas. We received proposals from two firms for this project. So as one would imagine the proposals are not identical in process, procedures or fees. Fehr Graham does not include any software modeling nor preliminary design work and is a less expensive process to complete. FOX included some actual design work and software modeling. Therefore, supplying more detail upfront thus the increased cost of their task order. Their information is to be inputted into a software model. They then will model the current sewer mains to replicate the backup flowrates. This will determine the feasibility of various design options, opinion of costs, project schedule and funding sources. The big cost difference between the two is FOX also proposed Funding Assistance and Preliminary Design cost. Basically, with this additional work completed now or later their cost differences narrow.

I recommend that the council approve the task order with FOX Engineering for this project area. To bring this into focus I submit the following. The costs are comparable. FOX has modeled the water system so we have seen it work first hand. Over the years they have quickly supplied us answers for possible industrial prospect and possible locations. It is also being used for the continuing water main replacement program. Then there is the fact they are involved in our road projects. Also coordinating possible road surface work with the water main project. It makes sense to dove tail the sewer into the watermain and road surface conversation. This will allow us to free flow information saving us time and expense. Instead of needing to facilitate dialog between two different firms.

Thank you for your time.

Victor Kane

From the Desk of  
Oelwein Utility Superintendent Victor Kane