

APPROVED

July 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Julian called the special meeting of the Kasson Township Board to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Greg Julian – Supervisor, Julia Carter – Treasurer, Dana Boomer – Clerk, Roger Noonan – Trustee, Tad Carter - Trustee

Member(s) Absent: None

Staff Present: Committee Member Fire Chief Andy Doornbos

AGENDA - Noonan moved, T. Carter seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC – None

SPECIAL BUSINESS

The fire station design committee (the Township Board plus Fire Chief Andy Doornbos) received three bids for the first stages of the fire station design process. These bids were from Fleis & Vandenbrink, JML Design Group, and Environment Architects. The board discussed the three bids, which differ several respects. The estimated construction costs range from \$1.2 to \$5 million, appearing to depend mainly on style and complexity of construction. The bids for the first two stages of the design process (conceptual renderings and community engagement/funding selection) are quite similar. The bids for the third stage vary widely, based on the wide range of construction costs, and are based on percentages of the construction cost. Boomer and Doornbos stated that Chief Gilstorff in Peninsula Township has provided an excellent reference for Environment Architects.

The board discussed the construction – they are looking at likely going with block construction for durability and long-lasting nature of the construction. They would like it built to last for decades, and to be what the fire department will need 20 years from now, to avoid having to do expansions within a few years of building the station. Because of the wide range of construction options and wide range of pricing for Stage 3, the board would like to contract for Stages 1 and 2 first.

The board discussed selection of a firm. Julian stated that there were three bids received – does the board want to look for more? The board determined that three was enough. Julian asked whether the board would like in-person presentations from the design firms. He has had it recommended that in-person presentations take place before a decision is made. Noonan and T. Carter don't see the need for in-person presentations. Boomer asked what would be presented that would be different from what is in the packets. Julian feels that an in-person presentation would allow time for questions and perhaps points that have not been raised. J. Carter thinks that in-person presentations would just be moving the process and decision down the road unnecessarily. Julian would like to do in-person presentations and call additional references. He will not support a motion that is passed without in-person presentations.

T. Carter moved to contract with Environment Architects for design work for Stages 1 and 2 for \$31,500 plus up to \$3,500 in reimbursable expenses for Stages 1 and 2. Noonan seconded. Ayes: J. Carter, T. Carter, Noonan, Boomer. Nays: Julian. Motion carried.

Boomer will contact Environment Architects and the other two firms. She will request that Environment Architects send a draft contract, which the board requested be reviewed by Tom Grier before signing.

Noonan stated that regarding location, the board should be looking ahead and making sure that caution lights or other systems are installed on the road where the station is constructed. Doornbos stated that there are systems that can be installed that turn on when the trucks are leaving the property for a call.

The board determined that they will continue to pursue the issue as a committee of the whole for now. Once the contract is received and reviewed, the board will meet at either a regular or special meeting to approve the contract and discuss next steps.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Don Drabik – You can always go with other people’s recommendation, but you need to know who you will get along with. It is important to listen to the various firms, and take that time to not make a fast decision. The board is taking the time to have the contract reviewed, but not taking the time to talk to the companies in person.

BOARD COMMENT: Boomer reported that the Recording Secretary for the Planning Commission had resigned effective as of after the July meeting. Boomer will be preparing an announcement to go in the paper. Julian stated that the Enduro hearing was this morning and the judge ruled in favor of the township on all counts.

Motion by Boomer to adjourn, second by Noonan/**PASSED 5-0.** Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.

Submitted by:
Dana Boomer, Clerk