



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

DREDGING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 7, 2024

MINUTES

DRAFT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

W. Rymer, S. Magdeburger, J. Pyne and A. Emerson at Town Hall
J Armstrong and S. Ross via Zoom
Mayor Magdeburger via Zoom

OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS:

Jonathan Hart via zoom

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (in person or via zoom):

None

Rymer called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM and the Committee did the Pledge of Allegiance. The committee reviewed and approved the Draft Minutes from both the February 26, 2024, and April 30, 2024 meetings. Both Draft of Minutes were approved in unanimous votes (6-0). The committee reviewed and discussed the detail of the three contractor bids received for the second round of the RFP/public bid process. It is important to note that all three bidders were part of the original round of bids and these bidders were the three lowest bidders from Round 1. All three bidders provided bids on two options:

Option A: Original Depth - MLW minus 4 feet plus one-foot allowable overdredge

Option B: Less Deep – MLW minus 3.5 feet plus six-inch allowable overdredge

For Option A, the bids ranged between \$2.08 million to \$2.22 million. The lowest bid for Option A resulted in a \$190,000 reduction from the lowest bid during the first round of the RFP process. For Option B, the bids ranged between \$1.85 million and \$1.97 million. Each bid included a breakdown of the fees between these four categories: Mob and Demob, Temp Sediment and Erosion Controls, Dewatering location construction costs and Hydraulic dredging activities. The committee also discussed the fact that there will be additional estimated costs of \$250,000 over and above the hydraulic dredging component. These additional costs related to consulting services during the project, purchase and installation of navigational aids, DNREC dredging fee (\$1.50 per cubic yard), geobag sediment testing and bathymetric surveys (if necessary).

The committee then discussed recent efforts for additional external funding. On June 4, Sussex County Council voted to approve providing \$800,000 to Fenwick Island to support this project. This vote came after several meetings and two presentations in front of the County Council over the last four weeks. These funds will come from specific reserves that were set aside for these type projects and other waterway initiatives. These reserve funds were generated from recently state-imposed hotel accommodation tax revenues (a portion of which were contributed from the



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State to Sussex County). These funds were provided to Fenwick on the basis that the town received \$1 million from the state of Delaware and Fenwick invests up to \$800,000 (over the life of this project) towards the successful completion of this project. Another important component to the funding is that the County Council wanted to ensure that the town could dredge to the originally engineered depth of “MLW minus 4 feet plus a one-foot allowable overdredge” to maximize the environmental benefits, enhance boater safety and extend the useful life of this project. The committee sincerely appreciates the efforts of all 5 County Council members (voted unanimously in favor of this funding) and Todd Lawson (County Chief Administrator).

Fenwick is still awaiting word on a \$50,000 funding request from the upcoming State Bond Bill to help pay for the purchase and installation of navigational aids. The committee expressed appreciation to both Representative Gray and Senator Hocker for their advocacy at the state level for our community. To date, the town has been granted \$1.8 million of external funding to support this project.

Jonathan Hart (Anchor QEA) then led a review of the steps their team performed to review all three bids, the financial aspects of each bid and the details/background of each bidder. These efforts led to Anchor QEA recommending the selection of JF Brennan as the winning bidder for this project. Hart explained the different factors they used to reach this decision and those steps were done consistent with the original factors that were previously identified to select the most qualified bidder. In summary, JF Brennan is well-respected, has performed numerous projects in this region, Anchor has extensive work experiences with JF Brennan and JF Brennan provided the lowest bids for both Option A and Option B.

The committee discussed this process and recommendation and then voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Council to select JF Brennan as the winning contractor and to select Option A (dredge to originally engineered depths) for the project. The committee recognized that this recommendation will require the Town Council to allocate additional funds of up to \$550,000 from the town’s reserves (RTT or General Funds) to this project.

The committee then discussed the following additional items:

- Still working to finalize the land access agreement with the property owner. Only remaining issue relates to the wording for a new soil sampling methodology if any testing will be necessary for the ground soil underneath the dewatering location. This would only be required if remediation is needed for any of the material held in geobags (excess contamination). This delay is due to the fact that the design of the dewatering location was recently changed which then resulted in the need to adjust ground soil sampling methodology.
- Town Council will review the recommendations from this committee and vote on the allocation of additional funding at their next meeting on June 28.
- The committee also discussed and approved (unanimous vote) an additional \$123,000 of consulting fees for Anchor QEA related to their efforts in connection with the multiple rounds of RFP/public bidding, extensive work with the dredging contracts and dredging design/support.

Mayor Magdeburger expressed her sincere appreciation for the efforts by this committee over the last three years to get the town to this point and looking forward to a successful completion of the project.

No old business was discussed.



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No new business was discussed.

Committee opened the meeting to Public Participation but there was none.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by J. Armstrong and seconded by S. Magdeburger to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm.