

Scenario:

You are the new Lindon City Public Works Director and have been on the job for three months. In FY2016 the City Council funded a specific amount for road improvement projects throughout Lindon City. You and your staff and contract engineers prepare and award a paving project that includes milling and repaving a portion of 400 West from 200 South to 600 South. Several other streets are included in the paving project.

After the road contractor begins work and has already milled off edges and intersections of the existing asphalt along 400 West your Water Division Supervisor mentions that it would have been nice to have replaced the old water services in the street before the repaving was done. You inquire further about the issue and find that the old water main line is estimated to be 40 years old or older and has had two or three breaks in the last five years, but no breaks in the last 12 months. You're surprised that this information did not come to light during design and prior to bidding out the repaving project. The Water Division Supervisor mentions that he hadn't been consulted on the project, and was concerned about stepping on your toes as the new PW Director, and therefore didn't bring up the old water line issue.

You are informed that several years ago the City installed a new main in the road, but didn't connect several old galvanized water lateral services to the new main due to funding limitations and physical obstacles over the laterals such as retaining walls, sidewalks, etc. Several water lateral services therefore need to be changed over to the new main before the old water main can be abandoned.

Your Water Division Supervisor produces a set of engineered plans that were prepared in 2012 in anticipation of the water lateral services replacement project. You are informed that the plans were bid out in 2012 through a competitive bidding process and that the bids came in too high and the project was tabled. He informs you that they are understaffed and unable to perform these lateral service replacements on their own.

At this same time the City has a separate water line replacement project that is occurring in a different area of town and nearly completed. You ask the contractor of that water project for bids on a potential change order to quickly replace the 400 West water lateral services and abandon the old water main. You send them the project plans and details as follows (see description below and attached plan set):

Transfer of 14 water services from an existing 4" water main to an existing 8" water main in 400 West between 200 South and 600 South. After services are transferred, the 4" main is to be disconnected at 200 South, 600 South, and at the fire hydrant line at approximately 455 South and 595 South. Plug the two existing tees and one existing cross with 4" plugs and thrust blocks and cap at the ends of the abandoned pipe. Also, relocate the fire hydrant and water meter at the northeast corner of 600 South and 400 West 5' to the west. The contractor is responsible for all asphalt saw cutting and patching as well as landscaping restoration.

Due to the complexity of the project, fast timeline for completion, and several "unknowns" about whether lateral water services can be pulled or have to be dug up, the contractor's estimator gives you the following bid estimates and says they can have the water project completed in 2-3 weeks:

- Low bid (assuming all services can be pulled): \$125,082.35
- High bid (assuming all services have to be dug up and can't be pulled): \$174,157.51

- Per your request the contractor also gives you hourly rates for labor, equipment, and markup - and is willing to work for those rates (time & materials) instead of the lump-sum contract estimates above.

Other Issues:

- The pavement milling has already occurred and construction signage has been in place for at least two weeks. You expect the paving could be done in one more week if there's no delay for the water line project. The paving contractor knows you are investigating the water line issue and has been put on hold, but is anxious to finish the project.
- Neighbors have not been informed of the water line issue. Your secretary is starting to get calls from neighbors asking when the paving project will be done. One neighbor has a wedding planned at their home in two weeks and is very concerned that parking will be limited in front of their house and there may be a detour during the wedding. The mother of the bride has stated she is good friends with a City Council member and that she's going to call them to complain about the inconvenience.
- You have not budgeted for, nor has the City Council approved, any other water replacement projects in the current fiscal year (FY2017). The old galvanized water services are particularly expensive to replace and the contract engineers feel the contractor's estimate is much higher than anticipated costs if the project was postponed and bid out at a later date. However, the water fund balance has sufficient amounts to cover the potential costs of the project. Water fund balance is approximately \$1,050,000.

Recommendation:

- Please present data and information you feel is relevant for the City Council (interview panel) to make an informed decision based upon your recommendation on the best way to proceed. Should the paving project be put on hold until the water services are replaced? Should paving continue and the water services replaced at a future date? Should the City Council approve a change order to replace the water services at the current time or wait to re-bid the project? Are there other alternatives or issues that need to be considered?

There is not necessarily a right or wrong answer to your thoughtful recommendation(s). We are more interested in the presentation, evaluation of and ability to deal appropriately with critical issues, and consideration of relevant details appropriate for a public meeting presentation. You can use any materials we've provided and/or can use other materials or reference information you feel is helpful for your presentation.

During your follow-up interview you may be asked about other details in this scenario that may not necessarily be part of your official presentation.