

**COLUMBUS CITY UTILITIES
CREDIT/DEBIT CARD POLICY**

Columbus City Utilities will accept credit/debit cards as a payment method for all its fees and charges. There are no fees to the customer for the use of a card, however, the Utility is charged a fee when it accepts card payments. In order to continue this service for our customers and try to control the cost involved, the following policy is being implemented as of April 1, 2014.

Columbus City Utilities customers will be limited in the amount of payments that can be made by credit/debit cards in one month. A customer may make payments on multiple accounts with normal utility charges, but with a limit of \$1,000 per month per customer.



COLUMBUS CITY UTILITIES

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New Business #1

February 13, 2014

To: Utility Service Board

From: Ed Bergsieker
Manager of Engineering

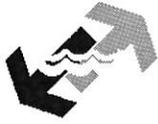
RE: Spring Hill Lake Phase I
Water and Sewer Improvements – Final Acceptance

The Engineering Department has observed the water and sewer facilities installed in conjunction with the above referenced development. We have provided on-site inspection during the construction process, obtained all necessary "as-built" information and conducted all necessary tests.

Staff has received the Tenders of Donation, the Record Drawings and Maintenance Bonds.

The project was constructed in compliance with plans and specifications prepared by Landwater Group Inc. in Columbus. The Owner/Developer for this project is Spring Hill Lake Development, LLC.

Staff recommends acceptance of these improvements.



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New Business #2

February 13, 2014

To: Utility Service Board

From: Ed Bergsieker
Manager of Engineering

RE: 3rd Street Lift Station Relocation and Replacement and Sanitary Sewer Improvements - Recommendation for Engineering Services

In January, Columbus Utilities Engineering sent out Request for Proposals for 3rd Street Lift Station Relocation and Replacement, and Sanitary Sewer Improvements to provide a competitive means in which to select an engineer. GRW Engineering, Strand Engineering and RLM Engineering responded to the Request for Proposals and laid out in the proposal, their scope of services.

The three firms were:

- GRW Engineers – GRW has designed and administered lift stations for Columbus Utilities, most recently the Walesboro lift station which stacks up very similarly to the proposed 3rd Street lift station. Their experience with Columbus Utilities goes beyond these projects as well.
- Strand Engineers – Strand has designed and administered the new Wastewater Treatment Plant, Headworks project and the Southside lift station for Columbus Utilities, along with various other projects.
- RLM Engineers – RLM has not performed work for Columbus Utilities, but has staff that has worked with Columbus Utilities as representatives of Strand /SIECO Engineering in the past.

Each respondent was asked to provide a proposal for improvements for the 3rd Street lift station and sanitary sewer improvements for each of the following project components:

- Executive Summary
- Company Background & Qualifications
- References
- Technical Approach
- Project Implementation
- Financial Approach
- Guarantee Management

The following is a brief summary of some of the pertinent items found in the individual proposals.

GRW

- Presents a team with which Columbus Utilities is very familiar with and has had very good success implementing very similar submersible lift stations over the years. When GRW studied design capacities for the Clifty lift station project, the 3rd Street station was also studied for design flows since the Clifty station feeds into 3rd Street. Their previous work gives them some design information in which to incorporate into this project.
- The projects they have administered over the years for Columbus Utilities have all had final construction costs under the engineer's estimate and many have had final costs come in under the low bid contract amount.
- The three submersible lift stations that have been administered by GRW, all have proven track records over the last several years with very minimal maintenance issues and consistent performance standards since being put online.

Strand

- Many of the firm's individuals outlined to be staffing this project are familiar faces which Columbus Utilities have enjoyed working with over the past few years as Strand and beyond that as the old SIECO firm.
- The firm has a good understanding of local layout of much of the city's existing utilities including ours.
- They designed and administered the contract for the Southside lift station. This project being very similar to what we are seeking in regards to upgrades for the 3rd Street lift station has presented problems over the years since it has been put online in our system. It seems that the extreme temperatures, both hot and cold, present operational problems that Columbus Utilities has been dealing with over the course of time. Additionally the odor control piece of the station has been an additional facet that has been an ongoing work in progress to get it working to an acceptable standard.

RLM

- Many of the firm's personnel are individuals that Columbus Utilities is familiar with from their years of employment with Strand/SIECO. While Richard Morin will be the principal of the project, teaming with many of the other individuals that have worked with Columbus Utilities in the past, this will be a relatively **new firm** for us to coordinate resources.
- The projects referenced in their proposal present many years of experience, but nothing that seems in line with the type of upgrade we are looking for in this project.
- In-house staffing lacks a Structural Engineer for a structural design necessary for the new Cast-in-Place Station.

Analysis

All three firms present proposals which indicate that each firm is very capable of taking on this project, which is why all three were invited to present RFP's.

- Their project understanding and analysis of the progressive steps Columbus Utilities needs to take in order to complete this project are relatively equal.
- All three firms present an outline to complete the project in the relative time frame that is needed and requested by Columbus Utilities.
- GRW plans a very well thought out and detailed review of the situation. This is consistent with our previous experience with them. It is hard to dispute a given track record of engineering very similar style lift station projects for Columbus Utilities and bringing them to completion not only under budget, but also with a track record of reliability and dependability.
- Strand has a long-standing history with Columbus. Some of their staff knows as much about our systems as our own staff does.
- RLM is essentially a new firm with familiar faces in front. We don't really know how big a difference the new firm will make.

The engineering services are budgeted for this year and the construction costs for next year. A Request for Proposals was sent out to three engineering firms to select one that we believe presents the best proposal to administer the project. We asked for Request for Proposals in lieu of a Request for Quotes due to the uncertain factors involved in this project, which starts with selecting and securing a site to replace the existing lift station. Too many variables existed in having engineering firms supply costs to a project that can have costs very considerable from the site selection and securing, to then implementing a particular plan for an unknown site at this time. We believe all the firms will base fees for the project if selected with reasonable rates based in large part to past similar work and with the knowledge that Columbus Utilities will have future work which they will be asked to quote if they remain fair and reasonable in their approach to this project.

Recommendation

- In the end, I must conclude that GRW has presented the proposal that best meets the need of Columbus Utilities and I recommend that the USB award the work to them.