

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Agenda Item #1 Request for Reconsideration: North Shore Multi-Material Recycling - Award of Contract]

Date: Mon, 10 May 2004 22:50:38 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: Agenda Item #1 Request for Reconsideration: North Shore Multi-Material Recycling - Award of Contract

Date: Mon, 10 May 2004 16:13:08 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>

CC: Don Bell2 <belld@dnv.org>, Alan Nixon <Alan_Nixon@dnv.org>, Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Janice Harris <Janice_Harris@dnv.org>, Lisa Muri <lisa_muri@dnv.org>, Maureen McKeon Holmes <Maureen_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org>, Richard Walton <richard_walton@dnv.org>, DNVCouncil <DNVCOUNCIL@dnv.org>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>, cagebc@yahoo.com, Gavin Joyce <Gavin_Joyce@dnv.org>, Allen Lynch -Recycling Program <allen_lynch@dnv.org>, Richard Zerr <Richard_Zerr@dnv.org>, Robert Huffman <Robert_Huffman@dnv.org>

Dear Mr. Ridge,

Thank you for your thoughtful and detailed reply to my e-mail on the above-mentioned subject. I appreciate you clarifying that all three North Shore municipalities considered the recycling contract on the same evening. I am sure you can appreciate that my concern over NVD being the last of the three to vote on the matter was based on what I heard at last Monday's Council meeting, including Councillor McKeon-Holmes' remark about the District being the 'caboose'.

While you might feel that my criticism was not legitimate, and even unfair, I have to disagree. On the contrary, I believe my comments were quite legitimate. I agree that all three NS municipalities should seek the best price for services, but I want to stress that quality of service should also be factored into the equation. If performance measures specified in the contract stipulate a level of service that we have come to expect from IPI, then Waste Management is probably the best choice.

The timing of the contract, however, is another matter. Again, it was shown last Monday that Council was not left any time to consider or pursue other options. We saw this with the gravel company contract a couple of years ago when a new contract was brought forward with no time to do anything but approve it. As I mentioned in my e-mail, there was also the recommendation to switch from clear plastic to paper bags, when Council was told that the other two municipalities had already voted and DNV was left to follow along behind. There has to be a better way, otherwise, the decision of each NS municipality with respect to recycling and yard waste collection is used against the other municipalities.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts

James Ridge wrote:

>Mr. Platts,

>I am more than willing to accept and act on legitimate criticism of District staff. However, I have made a commitment to Council and to staff to speak for staff when they are the subject of comments in the public that are unfair or inaccurate.

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>First, reports recommending Waste Management went simultaneously to all three Councils on the same date; last Monday. None of the three Councils had considered the item prior to last Monday. We have little control, as I am sure you can appreciate, over the hour of the evening at which the three Councils address items on their agendas. Who dealt with the item first and who went last in the course of the evening was relatively random. Regardless the intent of staff was that all three would deal with it the same evening.

The decision to defer was not a staff recommendation, but a motion from Council.

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>It would have been entirely inappropriate, as one of three partners in a tri-municipal agreement, for the District to have put a report in early. We brought the report to the three Councils as soon as practically possible after the tender evaluation and an additional process to ensure that Waste Management fully understood our service expectations, and to develop a contract to protect the District's interests. Nonetheless we did brief Council in closed session earlier last Monday about the evaluation of the contract and the steps the three Municipal Engineers and their contract lawyer have taken to protect the three municipalities from service shortcomings. Council had a discussion of the risk management issues.

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>Moreover, at no time have staff been in any way negative or critical of IPI. The comments made by staff both in camera and in public about IPI have been fair and positive. It is not uncommon to replace service providers with whom we have had positive experiences with new providers who have a lower price. I have no doubt that had we come to Council recommending IPI at a substantially greater cost, because we had a good experience with them, we would have been aggressively criticized by Council and members of the public. They would have quite rightly asked why we were incapable of structuring a performance contract to manage service level requirements with the lower cost provider.

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>James Ridge

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>-----Original Message-----

>From: Brian Platts [<mailto:bplatts@shaw.ca>]

>Sent: Sunday, May 09, 2004 8:54 PM

>To: Don Bell2; Alan Nixon; Ernie Crist; Janice Harris; Lisa Muri;

>Maureen McKeon Holmes; Richard Walton; DNVCouncil

>Cc: James Ridge; FONVCA; cagebc@yahoo.com

>Subject: Agenda Item #1 Request for Reconsideration: North Shore

>Multi-Material Recycling - Award of Contract

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>Mayor & Council:

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>I am troubled by the way in which this item has been handled. As a
>locally-owned and operated business with a long history in the
>community, IPI has provided outstanding service to North Shore
>residents. While Waste Management came in as the lowest bidder on the
>contract, I am not convinced that the company will provide the same
>level of quality service that we have come to expect from IPI. Although
>Waste Management has a lowest bid, I think other, equally important,
>non-monetary factors should enter into the equation.

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>More than the bidding process and my concerns about Waste Management,
>however, I believe that Staff has placed you in an untenable position
>over this contract. Just like the switch from clear plastic bags to
>paper (for yard waste), NVD is once again the last of the three
>municipalities to consider the matter. The other two had already decided
>so we had to meekly follow along behind. To borrow an analogy from
>Councillor McKeon-Holmes, the District seems to always be the caboose
>bringing-up the rear on the tri-municipal train. Is this deliberate? NVD
>is the largest North Shore municipality and should be leading the way
>forward.

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>Staff's "recommendation" on the recycling contract wasn't any such
>thing. A recommendation implies options. In this instance -- like other
>changes put forward by NS Recycling -- Council has not been given any
>time and is told that because the City and West Van have already

>decided, we have no choice in the matter. This is simply unacceptable.
>Council and the CAO should be more vigilant and demand that Staff bring
>forward such contracts, or changes to the yard waste and recycling
>program, with enough time to legitimately pursue options.

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>Sincerely,
>Brian Platts

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