

**Indian River County, Florida
Department of Utility Services
Board Memorandum**

Date: April 13, 2021
To: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
From: Vincent Burke, P.E., Director of Utility Services
Prepared By: John M. Boyer, P.E., Utilities Engineer
Subject: North Sebastian Water and Sewer Project Phase 2, Award of Bid No. 2021019

Background:

On January 29, 2021, the Indian River County (IRC) Purchasing Department opened sealed contractor's bids for the North County Water and Sewer Project Phase 2. Of the ten (10) bids received, two (2) were disqualified by the Purchasing Manager as being non-responsive. The eight (8) responsive bids were forwarded to the project's engineering consultant, Masteller & Moler, Inc. (MM) for review, and they have returned the recommendation of award (Attachment 1).

Analysis:

As described in their recommendation, MM is not satisfied that the apparent low bidder, Southern Underground Industries, Inc., is qualified or capable of successfully undertaking the project. MM goes on to recommend that the project be awarded to the next lowest bidder, Centerline, Inc. The two bids are compared in the following:

Southern Underground Industries, Inc.	\$3,726,644.00
Centerline, Inc.	\$3,881,269.00

Centerline's bid is an increase of \$154,625.00 (4%) over Southern Underground Industries' bid. However, Southern Underground Industries, Inc. is unknown to the Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) staff, and the negative reviews returned to MM are cause for concern for a project of this complexity and importance. In contrast, Centerline, Inc. is known by IRCDUS staff to be a responsible and capable contractor, and their references returned good reviews. IRCDUS staff therefore agrees with MM's recommendation to award the bid to Centerline, Inc.

The Purchasing Manager has received and is reviewing a timely protest by Southern Underground, asserting that they are the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder. The inclusion of this staff report in the agenda indicates that protest has been denied and Southern Underground will be anticipated to make an appeal of that denial before the Commission.

Funding:

Much of the project cost will be covered by grant funds from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP), and the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). The remainder will be paid for by Optional Sales Tax funds and assessment funds. Funds for the water portion of the project are derived from the assessment levied against the benefiting properties.

Project Funding:

Agency	Account Number	Amount
FDEP	N/A	\$3,250,000.00
IRLNEP	N/A	\$ 204,017.69
SJRWMD	N/A	\$1,280,818.77
IRC Optional Sales Tax	31526836-066510-17513	\$ 561,996.00
Sebastian Phase 2 Water & Sewer	473-169000-17513	\$ 361,890.00
Water Impact Fee	472034-343650	\$ 209,300.00
Miscellaneous Income	471034-343670	\$ 33,067.79
Total Project Funding:		\$5,901,090.25

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners award the North County Water and Sewer Project Phase 2 to Centerline, Inc. for \$3,881,269.00.

Attachments:

1. Construction Contract Recommendation of Award; Masteller & Moler, Inc.