

Resolution 2022-23:19 Strategic Planning Services (Watts Architecture & Engineering) Phase 3

By Board Member Jesse Dudley

WHEREAS, the Rochester School Facilities Modernization Program Act (“the Act”) established the Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board (“RJSCB” or “Board”), a seven voting member board consisting of equal representation by the City of Rochester (“City”) and the Rochester City School District (“District”), as well as a member jointly selected by the City and the District; and

WHEREAS, under the Act, the RJSCB has certain enumerated powers to act as agent for the District, the City, or both; and

WHEREAS, the authorizing legislation for Phase 2 of the Rochester Schools Modernization Program (“RSMP”) was signed into law by the Governor of the State of New York on December 17, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the amended Act authorized up to 26 projects in Phase 2 of the RSMP including a District Wide Technology program which involves technology upgrades and infrastructure work at several of the possible projects; and

WHEREAS, the authorizing legislation for Phase 3 of the RSMP was signed into law by the Governor of the State of New York on November 16, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the legislation for the RSMP states that the RJSCB may extend or enter into new contracts with the providers of professional services for Phase Three upon the adoption of findings that doing so would be in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the RJSCB, upon the recommendation of its Program Manager, determined a need for Master Planning Support Services to assist the RJSCB and District in the further development of the long range District Strategic Plan for Phase 3 of the RSMP including a District-Wide strategic plan, buildings infrastructure review, long range program evaluations and a District-Wide capacity study; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2018, the RJSCB issued a request for proposal (“RFP”) for Master Planning Support Services to assist the RJSCB and District in the further development of the long-range District Strategic Plan for Phase 3 of the RSMP including a District-Wide strategic plan, buildings infrastructure review, long range program evaluations and a District-Wide capacity study (Resolution 2017-18: 146); and

WHEREAS, the RJSCB’s Program Manager subsequently received two responses to the RFP as of the date and time specified in the RFP and promptly distributed the proposal to the RJSCB; and WHEREAS, a selection committee made up of representatives of the RJSCB, the Program Director, the Independent Compliance Officer and representatives of the Program Manager interviewed the two responding firms; and

WHEREAS, following the selection committee interviews, the Program Manager identified Watts as the best candidate for the Master Planning Support Services based upon its qualifications, experience, ability to meet the demands and staffing for such services, and the cost of services; and

WHEREAS, the RJSCB recognizes that in order to maintain the proposed Phase 3 activity schedule and to maintain overall project responsibility and accountability it is necessary to engage the Master Planning Support Services for the Phase 3 of the RSMP immediately; and

WHEREAS, the RJSCB believes that a new formal request for proposals and selection process for Master Planning Support Services for Phase 3 will jeopardize the continuity of the RSMP and will not achieve any measurable cost savings where negotiations can achieve the same outcome in a timelier fashion; and

WHEREAS, as permitted by the Phase 3 legislation, the RJSCB enter into and agreement with Watts a firm which is familiar with the RSMP having performed Phase 2 design services and Master Planning Support Services; and

WHEREAS, the RJSCB has directed the Chair to engage Watts and to obtain and review a proposal to provide Master Planning Support Services for the Phase 3 project; and

WHEREAS, Watts on January 27, 2022 submitted a written proposal for the proposed Master Planning Support Services which has been reviewed and analyzed by the Chair; and

WHEREAS, at the RJSCB meeting on February 13, 2023, the Chair recommended that Watts' proposal to provide Master Planning Support Services for Phase 3 be accepted; and

WHEREAS, the RJSCB considered, discussed and deliberated the Chair's recommendation at its February 13, 2023 regular meeting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The RJSCB hereby approves the Chair's recommendation that the services of Watts to provide Master Planning Support Services for Phase 3 based upon the finding that the proposal is in the public interest for the reasons set forth above; and
2. The RJSCB hereby approves the issuance of an Agreement to Watts to provide Master Planning Support Services for Phase 3 of the RSMP, subject to the availability of Program funds; and
3. The Chair is hereby authorized, in the name and on behalf of the RJSCB, to execute and deliver the Agreement to the firm named above, with such changes as the Chair may approve on the advice of the Board and the RJSCB's general counsel.

Seconded by Member Ron Gaither

Adopted: 6-0