

**CITY OF GROTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:30 PM

Mayor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Dennis Popp, Deputy Mayor Marian Galbraith, Councilors David Hale, Lisa M. Luck, Celeste Duffy, William Jervis, Treasurer Janice Waller-Brett, Finance Director Michael Hillsberg and City Clerk Debra Patrick. Excused: Councilor Keith Hedrick.

REFERRAL ITEM # 364 AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDERS FOR DATA STORAGE HARDWARE, VIRTUALIZATION SERVERS, VIRTUALIZATION SOFTWARE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO GOTHAM TECHNOLOGY GROUP,LLC, 4 RESEARCH DRIVE, SHELTON, CONNECTICUT FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED (\$208,446.22)

Mayor Popp asked IT General Manager, Sue Blanchette to give the Councilors an over view of the request before them.

Ms. Blanchette said this is a huge project for them as the price tag indicates. She said what they will do is take a large number of servers, specific applications and file servers and reduce them to 6 physical servers and allow multiple applications to run on a single server. She said this will allow them to reduce their energy cost and physical footprint. At the present time they can't fit all of their hardware in one room. She said there are servers in multiple locations in and out of the municipal building. She said they want to virtualize, shrink, the size of the hardware they are running and give them the availability of redundancy and fail over capability which they don't have now. The data storage side will give them initially 2.5 Terabytes of data storage with a second storage capacity of up to 5 Terabytes which are both expandable. At the present time we have 1.5 Terabytes in storage now. What they have to retain has more than tripled in the last 5 years. She said the project goal is to reduce their energy costs, reduce the physical footprint, provide them with redundancy, failover capabilities they don't currently have and expand their storage capabilities.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith asked how they would reduce their physical footprint, what would they be getting rid of and where would it be housed.

Ms. Blanchette said they have 33 servers, 19 of them would become virtualized down to 6. She said that is the first phase of the project with more to be done over time. She said this will allow them to keep everything for the application and file servers in the data center here in the municipal building and continue to keep the application servers specific to the operations complex in their building.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith asked where the redundancy comes from.

Ms. Blanchette said the redundancy comes from the virtualization software that in the event of failure will automatically move the data and applications without interruption to another server in a virtual environment. This will give them the redundancy.

There was discussion on backups and how little time there is to actually be able to do them, offsite 3rd party storage and fail over locations.

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Deputy Mayor Galbraith asked if this was for Water and Electric operations only or did it include TVC.

Ms. Blanchette said this would be City wide. She said TVC would be using the newer servers that are being phased out by this project.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith asked where the money would be coming from.

Ms. Blanchette said a fund was established in 2006 for IT projects.

Councilor Luck asked what the costs for professional services is.

Ms. Blanchette said it is \$34,000.00 and includes onsite design work, installation of the software, move the files from the file servers to data storage and move applications from the existing application servers to the virtual environment for the initial 19. She said they would be onsite for quite some time.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith asked about the process to decide on Gotham Technology Group.

Ms. Blanchette said when they first began the project they spoke with a number of different vendors. She said several dropped out with Gotham staying throughout the project and the only vendor that bid on all 4 phases of the project. She said they did get competitive prices on other phases but no other vendor bid on the entire project.

Councilor Luck asked what the breakdown is for the virtualization software.

Ms. Blanchette said the costs are \$35,115.60 for the software for the 6 virtual servers, \$10,167.86 for the software for the 2 control consoles that will allow them to move items from server to server and the majority of the remaining costs are in the storage.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith moved **Councilor Duffy** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM # 364** to the Special Mayor and Council meeting of March 22, 2010. **Motion carried.**

REFERRAL ITEM # 365 INITIALLY APPROVE “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED ON OLD BUDDINGTON ROAD, ADJACENT TO THE POQUONNOCK RESERVOIR, FOR A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED (\$500,000.00) TO BE PAID FROM THE 1995 WATER DIVISION BOND FUND PROGRAM”

Deputy Director Herb Cummings brought a map of the property from 2000 up to the dais for the Councilors to see. He said the land is key to water quality and for their future. He said they will mine the property for the gravel.

Councilor Duffy asked how long before they can actually start working it.

Mr. Cummings said they can begin almost immediately. He said they already have a buyer for the gravel.

Councilor Duffy asked about the seller, where will she be living.

Mr. Cummings said the seller will retain 1.2 acres and continue to live there.

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Duffy** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM # 365** to the Special Mayor and Council meeting of March 22, 2010. **Motion carried.**

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**REFERRAL ITEM # 366 WATER TREATMENT PLANT LOCATION FOR SITE OF
DIESEL ELECTRIC GENERATORS**

Mayor Popp said the site plan has been approved by the Town but the lease must be approved by the City.

Robin Kipnis, Assistant General Counsel to CMEEC spoke to the Council regarding CMEEC's willingness to work with the City on this matter. She said they will bring in a landscape architect to determine the best way to screen the generator from the road within their budgetary constraints. She said they would work with the City Planner and bring it back before the Council.

There was discussion on the size, noise levels and whether the generator could be placed further back on the property out of the sightline from the road. The discussion continued regarding placement on the property and the reasons why it can't be placed further back due to drinking water regulations.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith said she would like to see the site plans and have a site visit.

Councilor Jervis asked if there were any security issues.

Ms. Kipnis said there will be a security camera that is monitored at CMEEC during business hours and then rolled over to Norwich Public Utilities after hours.

There was continued discussion the height of the generator and how best to screen it.

II. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

III. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Duffy** seconded a motion to adjourn. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Popp adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**