



Town of Pittsboro, North Carolina

Engineering Department

Memorandum

To: Bryan Gruesbeck, Town Manger

From: Fred Royal, PE, Town Engineer 
Randy Heard, Wastewater Plant Superintendent

Subject: WWTP emergency electrical generator replacement recommendation

Date: October 7, 2013

Background and Discussion

Staff has reviewed three bids from electrical contractors for the purchase and installation of the 275kW generator. All three bids came in over our existing budget of \$98,659.00 (Rural Center Grant). The highest bid was significantly higher than the lower two. In order to reduce the cost, we changed the scope to include the Town purchase of the generator/transfer switch and asked the two lowest bidder(s) to resubmit a revised cost.

Both electrical contractors resubmitted cost proposals, which were still over budget, yet at a lower cost. Our lowest price for this project is \$111,192.00. This represents a budget over run of \$12,533.00.

Once completed, this project will make available the existing 230kW emergency generator for the Water Treatment Plant. This generator was previously installed at the WWTP as a part of the equalization basin project. It is oversized for the demand loads and would otherwise become redundant with the new generator project. The Water Treatment Plant budget listed this item (emergency generator) in the FY 12-13 budget as a very high priority. However, it was not funded. Our estimate of total cost savings to Town would be \$54,000.00, assuming the 230 kW generator is eventually relocated and installed at the Water Treatment Plant.

Recommendation

We recommend that the Town budget for the additional \$12,533.00, and engage the low bidder, Shuler Electric, Inc. for the generator installation. The contract amount with Shuler will be \$39,846.00. Additional Town costs would include: 1) direct purchase of the 275 kW Generator and Transfer switch, (including taxes, fuel and start-up) and; 2) installation of data controls

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(separate contract with R.L. Haire Electric & Controls, LLC) for a total cost estimate of \$71,346.00.

Summary of project budget and funding sources

Rural Center Grant contribution: \$98,659.00

*Town contribution: \$12,533.00

Total project cost estimate: \$111,192.00.

*Possible sources include the existing Water Treatment Plant budget and the General Revenue Fund or a combination of both.

Upon approval to proceed, the Town may engage Shuler Electric Inc. in a contract to begin the preparation work to install the generator. In addition, the Town may order the generator and transfer switch from Piedmont Generator & Equipment Company, Inc. It will take approximately ten weeks for delivery. Once delivered, we anticipate the entire project will be completed within 90 days from the delivery date.

At the completion of the project, the Town will have the existing 230kW generator (three years old) and transfer switch prepared for the eventual delivery to the Water Treatment Plant. We believe that the FY 13-14 budget should include funding for the delivery, electrical design/circuit reconfiguration and installation of the 230kw generator and transfer switch at the Water Treatment Plant. This Water Treatment Plant emergency generator project is significantly overdue and under our recommendation, it would occur at a significant cost savings to the Town.

Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Cc: Mandy Cartrette, Finance Director
Adam Pickett, Water Plant Superintendent
John Poteat, Utilities Director