

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 21, 2011

TITLE: Authorization for the Town Manager to Award a Contract for Morgan Creek Design and Engineering

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u> ___
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution to Execute Contract for Engineering Services B. Capital Improvement Project Ordinance	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329 Arche L. McAdoo – 918-7439

PURPOSE

The Board is asked to authorize the Town Manager or Interim Town Manager to execute a contract for preliminary engineering services for the Morgan Creek Greenway and adopt a Capital Project Ordinance.

INFORMATION

On March 16, 2010, the Board of Aldermen adopted the Morgan Creek Greenway Conceptual Master Plan, supported the ongoing development of the greenway, and directed staff to pursue a Municipal Agreement with NCDOT. On October 5, the Board approved a Supplemental Agreement with NCDOT to administer federal funding to design and build early phases of the Morgan Creek Greenway.

Later that month, the Town initiated a Request for Qualifications process to select the most qualified firm to deliver the project. Nine letters of interest were evaluated, and four firms were interviewed in December. On January 18, 2011, the Town selected Coulter Jewell Thames, PA, (CJT) of Durham, to perform the work. A contract scoping meeting was held on February 7. The Town received scope of services, fee estimate, and supporting documentation from CJT on April 21. However, additional information was requested by NCDOT to perform the audit of the submitted documents as required by federal and state regulations and policies. The additional documentation was received by Town staff on June 7-8 and subsequently forwarded to NCDOT to perform the audit.

After the audit is completed, negotiations can begin with the selected firm. If negotiations are unsuccessful in reaching a fair and reasonable price for the services, the negotiations may be terminated and initiated with the next best qualified firm, consistent with NCGS §143-64.31(a).

Due to the possibility that a contract with a fair and reasonable price may be ready for being executed during the Board's summer break, the Board is asked here to authorize the Town Manager or Interim Town Manager to execute the contract, provided that the negotiations satisfactorily address all comments and points of difference outlined by the NCDOT audit and a fair and reasonable price is reached.

Scope of project

The project consists of:

- detailed surveying, permitting, planning, and design of MCG Phases 1 and 2 (as defined in the Concept Plan), consisting of a multi-use pedestrian-bicycle path along Morgan Creek from Smith Level Rd. west to the Weatherhill Pointe neighborhood;
- FEMA No-Rise Certification analyses for four creek crossings proposed to be included in the future full length of the greenway.

The following design, permitting, or plan requirements are expected to be part of the design process:

- Surveying
- Multi-use path layout and design
- FEMA hydraulic analysis
- NEPA documentation
- Erosion and sedimentation control plan
- Wetland and stream delineation and 401/404 Certification
- Stream buffer authorization from the N.C. Division of Water Quality
- Traffic control plan
- Landscaping plan
- Encroachment agreement with NCDOT for the Smith Level Rd. ROW
- Coordination with electric utilities and OWASA relating to trail segments crossing utility easements
- One or more citizens' informational workshops

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

The Morgan Creek Greenway Conceptual Plan, prepared by CJT, provided a cost estimate of \$132,350 for the length of multi-use path described above. The estimate includes FEMA hydraulic studies for the future full length of the greenway, alterations of an existing parking lot for trailhead use, design of one bridge crossing, and design of a concrete multi-use path. Construction costs are estimated to be \$476,650, for total projects costs of \$600,000.

Federal Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable (STP-DA) funding has been allocated for the project in the amount of \$480,000, as described in the Supplemental Agreement dated 8/12/2010 (WBS Element: 40245.1.1) and matching funds from the sidewalk and greenway bond issue in the amount of \$120,000 have been allocated.

Approximately 250 hours of Town staff time are needed to administer the project.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen consider the resolution in *Attachment A* and Capital Project Ordinance in *Attachment B*.