

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Agenda Item #1 Request for Reconsideration: North Shore Multi-Material Recycling - Award of Contract]

Date: Mon, 10 May 2004 22:47:54 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: Agenda Item #1 Request for Reconsideration: North Shore Multi-Material Recycling - Award of Contract

Date: Mon, 10 May 2004 18:33:58 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>, Don Bell <don_bell@dnv.org>, Alan Nixon <alan_nixon@dnv.org>, Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Janice Harris <janice_harris@dnv.org>, Lisa Muri <lisa_muri@dnv.org>, Maureen McKeon Holmes <Maureen_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org>, Richard Walton <rwalton@dnv.org>, NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>

CC: James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>, cagebc@yahoo.com

10 May 2004

Dear Brian:

I share many of the concerns you express in your email.

Like you, I believe there is more to the provision of a service than the lowest bid - it is far more important to obtain value for money and the two don't always go together.

Next, I would have preferred Council to have had more time to gather and consider details of the events that led up to cancellation of the WMI contract by the City of Kamloops.

Next, I share your concerns re the position of the District vis a vis other North Shore municipalities. The only point I would make in modification is that, had there not been a lengthy awards ceremony in delay of the regular Council meeting, DNV Council may well have voted before the others, rather than after.

As for the basic issue of one company vs the other.....My concern is that, if DNV should have to cancel the contract, what will have happened to all the trucks and the good employees in the interim? After all, a company cannot be expected to idle around waiting for the other company to fall on its face.

The other aspect I have mentioned previously...If DNV is a willing participant to the LRSP, then its decisions must always have that consideration as a major factor in its decisions. Dieseling our garbage trucks back and forth over the bridge and across the Lower Mainland will also be an added cost, albeit a hidden one.

All of that said, when I heard that Staff - of both WV and DNV - are confident that the escape clauses in the event of non-performance are airtight, then I thought, "OK, let's try it, save considerable dollars, and see what happens. [Of course, such an 'escape' would also cost us money!]

The nuts and bolts of both your email and mine, once again, is a matter of DNV process. Council never seems to have all of the critical analysis on the table in sufficient time to enable a decision based on complete disclosure.

Although I have not read it yet, I am very encouraged at some of the details that are said to be in the report released by Mr. Ridge. The organizational changes may well allow individual members of staff more time to dot the i's and cross the t's than has been the case for the last few years.

I'll be interested to see how the recycling details unfold. I have another email in the works on a second, very serious, topic of concern and will send it off shortly.

Regards,
Liz

Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca> wrote:

Mayor & Council:

I am troubled by the way in which this item has been handled. As a locally-owned and operated business with a long history in the community, IPI has provided outstanding service to North Shore residents. While Waste Management came in as the lowest bidder on the contract, I am not convinced that the company will provide the same level of quality service that we have come to expect from IPI. Although Waste Management has a lowest bid, I think other, equally important, non-monetary factors should enter into the equation.

More than the bidding process and my concerns about Waste Management, however, I believe that Staff has placed you in an untenable position over this contract. Just like the switch from clear plastic bags to paper (for yard waste), NVD is once again the last of the three municipalities to consider the matter. The other two had already decided so we had to meekly follow along behind. To borrow an analogy from Councillor McKeon-Holmes, the District seems to always be the caboose bringing-up the rear on the tri-municipal train. Is this deliberate? NVD is the largest North Shore municipality and should be leading the way forward.

Staff's "recommendation" on the recycling contract wasn't any such thing. A recommendation implies options. In this instance -- like other changes put forward by NS Recycling -- Council has not been given any time and is told that because the City and West Van have already decided, we have no choice in the matter. This is simply unacceptable. Council and the CAO should be more vigilant and demand that Staff bring forward such contracts, or changes to the yard waste and recycling program, with enough time to legitimately pursue options.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts

[Yahoo! Messenger](#) - Communicate instantly..."Ping" your friends today! [Download Messenger Now](#)