



Town of Stow
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

380 Great Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775-1122
(978) 897-5098
planning@stow-ma.gov

DATE: July 20, 2022

TO: Prospective Bidders and Others

FROM: Jesse Steadman – Stow Town Planner

SUBJECT: Response to Bidder Questions – Town of Stow Lower Village Public Water Supply Feasibility Study

This response to bidder questions includes all comments received at the July 13, 2022 Pre-Proposal Conference and via email by 12:00 PM on July 15, 2022.

Pre-Proposal Conference Attendance List:

Ray Talkington	Geosphere, Inc.
Scott Bighnatti	Weston and Sampson, Inc.
Katie Chamberlain	Stantec
David Harwood	Verdantas
Thomas Mahanna	N/A

Question #1

Given the volatility in prices for well drilling materials and services, will the Town be willing to accept change orders?

Response #1

The Town of Stow recognizes the difficulty in estimating prices in the current market environment. The Town will include contract language regarding escalation during the contract phase. Items subject to potential escalation will be limited to physical construction/drilling services, including the procurement of other necessary materials. The Town of Stow does not expect that engineering services and/or analytical components of the study will be subject to escalation.

Question #2

Developing a cost for Task 2 without the information from Task 1 is difficult and may not be in the best interest of the Town or consultant, especially if it is lump sum.

The proposed project is great and having a highly advantageous team of hydrogeologists, water supply engineers, and wetlands personnel will make this a successful project for the Town. That said, we would suggest to the Town that the time and material costs for Task 1, as indicated in the RFP, are fine, but the volatility in material costs, fuel, supply chain problems are anticipated

to increase the costs from those initially developed for the RFP. As such, and as indicated in the Zoom meeting, change orders will be necessary.

Response #2

It is not the Town's intention to immediately move from the feasibility study phase, into construction level engineering. The intent of the RFP is to conduct the fact finding necessary to determine potential costs of advancing the project to construction.

Notwithstanding the response to Question #1, if there are tasks associated with public water supply development that are particularly prone to escalation, the Town expects the potential to be noted, along with any recommendations for funding contingencies related to feasibility of advancing the project to construction.

Question #3

We have a number of our key staff out on planned vacation over the next two weeks and request that the submittal date be extended by one week to Wednesday, August 3, 2022.

Response #3

The Town of Stow is amenable to an extension of the due date for proposals and will submit the amendment under Addendum #1. An addendum in PDF format will be uploaded to the Bid and Proposal page on the Town's website at <https://www.stow-ma.gov/home/pages/bids-and-proposals>.