

**NISSWA CITY COUNCIL
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A continuation meeting of the Nisswa City Council was held Tuesday, February 8, 2017 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.

Members Present: Mayor Heidmann, Jacobson, Krautkremer, Ryan

Members Absent: Johnson

Staff Present: Blomer, Jones, Wentler

Call to order: 5:00pm

**RECONVENE FROM CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS AND INTERVIEW
RFPs FOR CITY ENGINEERING FIRMS**

City Council interviewed 3 engineering firms. These 3 firms gave a presentation on who they are, what services they provide and what they can do for the city.

- WSB – Chad DeMenge Project Manager, Ron Bray V.P. , Chris Sonmor Project Manager, James Miller-Wenck Associates Wastewater Specialist.
- Bolton & Menk – Phil Martin City Engineer
- WSN – Mark Hallan Civil Engineer, Justin Schulz Civil Engineer, Mark Reineke Geographer

Discussion: Heidmann questioned where do we want to go? Do we have any recommendations or do we need to investigate more? Jacobson questioned if there is any reason(s) that our current engineering firm isn't doing their job and if there is a reason to change? Ryan asked if Blomer and Jones and any feelings on which firm they liked. Jones stated is feels very comfortable with WSN and has had no issues. They have been great to work with. Blomer stated he has reviewed all proposals and all firms are capable. Blomer would like to have a local firm. He would like to choose a firm that has wastewater staff on hand. Blomer believes that WSN has more resources available in the area. Blomer wanted the council to keep in mind that some of the complaints they may have heard belong to SEH from all the tunnel issues. Jacobson said that Bolton & Menk's costs were a bit lower. Jacobson also stated he likes that WSN has been around and has knowledge of current and past projects. Heidmann stated that WSB is an incredible company and offers a lot and is very professional. He believes that they are more than what we need and is not a local company. Heidmann stated he has struggles with WSN the past couple years as they have been inconsistent from meeting to meeting and with things they say they're going to do and do not do them. Some examples include Main Street project limitations; Edna Lake Road elevation change limitations and inconsistencies. Heidmann also stated that he didn't feel that WSN has put they're heart and soul in to it. Change can be uncomfortable, but is interested in trying something new. Bolton & Menk is in tune with Nisswa and will work towards preserving the

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natural look of Nisswa. Krautkremer stated he liked WSB, but needs more time to process all the information. He liked that they would help create a short term and long term road inventory replacement and help us get funding for roads. He also liked the communication approach they would offer and that they provide education and leadership training. Krautkremer stated he does have concerns with the addition or outsourcing of Wenke Association, but understands why they work together. Krautkremer stated he has no issues with WSN. He stated Blomer's comfort level is important as well. Ryan stated that he liked WSB's presentation. He has no issues with WSN. He likes that Bolton & Menk want to try and keep the roads narrow and scenic if possible. Ryan stated we have 3 qualified firms. He would like to keep the money local. Ryan stated he needed to think about it more but what Blomer and Jones think would be best will weigh heavily on his decision. Blomer stated his first choice would be WSN as they have a lot of history on the city projects and his second choice would be Bolton & Menk. WSB's expertise is in larger systems and doesn't feel we will get personal service. Blomer stated that Hallan is not a great salesman, but is a great engineer. Hallan lives close and meets with staff often. They also have the next generation working with them to learn the ins and outs of our city. Jones stated he enjoys working with WSN and has had no issues. Yes change could be better, but it could also be worse. He believes we should stay with what is working. Jacobson stated we should not decide tonight, but to put on the council agenda. This will give us time to think about it and we will get Gary Johnson's input as well.

Blomer questioned if there were any long term possibilities in extending the contract to 3-5 years. Heidmann believes that 2 years is a good thing. There is a level of accountability when contracts are shorter. He thinks it would not be good if we changed firms every 2 year, but is important to review as competition is good. Blomer agrees, but 2 years is not a long time for a major consultant. A 3-5 year span would be more efficient in getting to know them.

Motion by Ryan, seconded by Jacobson to take discussion of City Engineer to the City Council meeting on February 15th for approval on which firm to choose.

All members voting "Aye" motion carried.

MOTION by Jacobson, seconded by Ryan to adjourn. All members voting "Aye" motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURED AT 7:29 PM.

Fred Heidmann, Mayor

Maggi Wentler, Deputy City Clerk