

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: June 21, 2010

Date Submitted: June 4, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Cleve Fleming, Public Works Director
Brent Pell, Public Works Project Engineer

Subject: Request Board Ratification of an Emergency Purchase for the Repair of CR 375 / Rose Street / Smith Creek Highway

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board ratification of an Emergency Purchase of \$14,011.20 to Ben Withers, Inc. for the repair of CR 375 / Rose Street / Smith Creek Highway.

Background:

County Road 375 (CR 375), which is also known as Smith Creek Highway, and Rose Street as it passes through downtown Sopchoppy provides a vital link from Crawfordville to Smith Creek through Sopchoppy. This section of road is utilized by the local citizens, commercial trucks and emergency responders.

On the evening of May 10, 2010, public works staff received an urgent call from the Wakulla County Sheriffs Department stating a bridge had failed on Rose Street (CR 375) located in Sopchoppy. Upon receipt of the phone call, Public Works staff mobilized and determined the damage to the roadway was caused by a failed culvert. Public Works staff called one of our vendors to provide the necessary signage and barricades to close the road and establish a detour route. This detour route placed significant traffic onto adjacent local roads. These local roads are approximately 16 feet wide and were intended to serve the homes that front along them. Many of these homes contain children, whom often play and ride bikes on the paved roads and in their front yards. The detour created a huge safety risk to the citizens and the children along the detour route.

The next day Public Works staff assessed the damage and made a list of needed equipment and materials that would be necessary to make the repairs. The following is a short list of the observations made by Public Works staff:

- The failed culvert was approximately 15 feet beneath the existing road surface.
- Overhead power lines were directly above the repair area.
- Substantial underground utilities were present within the right of way.
- The repair required the removal and replacement of guardrail.
- The depth of the excavation would most likely require trench boxes.
- The detour route was unsafe for the volumes and types of vehicular traffic.

Analysis:

Based on staff's observations to the required repairs, it was determined the County would be better served if an experienced contractor with necessary equipment makes the emergency repairs. Ben Withers, Inc. was near the area working on another project and was contacted to assess the site and advise staff when to mobilize. Within hours of being contacted, Ben Withers, Inc. began mobilizing to the site. The repairs were completed in a very timely manner, which was vital to getting this roadway back open.

According to the County Code, an "Emergency Purchase" is "an expeditious purchase of goods, services, consultant services and/or construction to reduce an imminent or existing threat to the health, safety or welfare of persons or property within the County." In the event of an emergency, the County Administrator is empowered to secure needed goods or services without competitive bidding.

Additionally, Section 4.7 of the County Purchasing Policy states, in part..... "*emergencies that require the immediate purchase of goods or services, the County Administrator, or his designee shall be empowered to secure goods or services without competitive bidding. In this event all measures as are reasonably possible under the circumstances shall be taken to assure the maximum cost benefit to the county of the goods and services procured*".

In accordance with the County Code, documentation for all emergency purchases must be submitted to the County Administrator and all emergency purchases greater than \$10,000.00 must be submitted to the Board for ratification.

Due to the numerous safety hazards to Public Works staff in attempting this type of repair, and the dangers that the detour route posed to the citizens of Sopchoppy, it was imperative a qualified contractor make the emergency repairs to this section of road. Staff is requesting the Board ratify the emergency purchase of \$14,011.20 to Ben Withers, Inc. for repairs made to CR 375/Rose Street/Smith Creek Highway. The funds will come from Fund 160-Road Department (Account #7000-02-541-5460), which is the 9 cent local gas tax.

Options:

1. Ratify the Emergency Purchase of \$14,011.20 to Ben Withers, Inc. for the Repair of CR 375 / Rose Street / Smith Creek Highway.
2. Do not ratify the Emergency Purchase of \$14,011.20 to Ben Withers, Inc. for the Repair of CR 375 / Rose Street / Smith Creek Highway.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

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Attachment(s):

1. Invoice from Ben Withers, Inc.