

Study of water system vulnerability in works

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As the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on America is observed this week, a vulnerability assessment of Braintree's water system is in the works.

At the recommendation of Water and Sewer Executive Director Paul Wohler, the Board of Selectmen voted 5-0 on Monday to award a \$12,400 contract to Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated (CEI) of Milford to conduct this study in compliance with federal law.

The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 requires the Water and Sewer Department to submit a water system vulnerability assessment to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by June 30, 2004.

Three engineering consulting firms were invited to bid on this work, Wohler explained in a Sept. 2 letter to the board.

The other bids were submitted by Environmental Partners Group (\$13,500) and Armory Engineers (\$20,000).

"All three of these firms are capable of performing this task," Wohler wrote.

In a related matter, the selectmen also voted unanimously to award a \$71,800 contract to CEI for engineering services for the replacement/upgrade of the water mains on portions of Middle Street and Liberty Street.

CEI again submitted a lower bid than Environmental Partners Group and Armory Engineers.

"When we questioned them on their low estimates of man-hours needed for the design, building, and contract administration tasks, they offered to do these tasks, as well as the record drawings, on a 'lump sum' basis," Wohler wrote in a Sept. 2 letter to the board. "They will bill us for resident inspection on an hourly basis so we will only pay for the actual hours worked by the inspector."

Wohler pointed out that CEI most recently worked with the

the dredging Phase I project for the Tri-Town Water Board.

"Their work was satisfactory, and we believe they will do a fine job overseeing this water main construction," he concluded.

In other business, the selectmen voted unanimously to award:

A \$73,148 contract to Peter N. Benedict & Sons, Inc. of Rockland, the lowest bidder for Contract 7 of the Sump Pump Redirect Program.

A \$117,600 contract to Global Odor Technologies, Inc. of New Bedford, the only bidder for furnishing and maintaining grease treatment systems.

On a different matter, the board voted 4-1, with Selectman Darrin McAuliffe opposed because there was no educational attachment, to award a Community Preservation Act grant, not to exceed the Community Preservation Committee's \$10,000 budget, to Bayside Engineering of Somerville to provide evaluation/review services for the town-owned property located on Pond Street.

Part of this property is the site of the former Noah Torrey School which is currently rented by the Marge Crispin Center. An adjacent former school building is now vacant but was previously renovated and rented by the Prudential Company.

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