

**Water Meter & Sidewalk Replacements
ITB #201806**

**Questions & Answers
Updated 4-25-18**

- Q1. Are you looking for a prime contractor for all the work on this project? Or can we bid just meter installation?
A1. The entire project must be bid as shown on the bid form or the bid will be considered incomplete and the bidder deemed non-responsive.
- Q2. Can the City provide a service address listing from the billing system to aid bidders in reviewing and preparing pricing for the project?
A2. Yes, the list will be posted with Addendum #1, but the list is only a guide. It is not the exact list of each individual location where work will be completed.
- Q3. Will meters be relocated?
A3. We do not anticipate very many relocations and intend that the meter settings will be replaced in place.
- Q4. Will there be any meter switch outs only? Or will they be full replacements?
A4. The intent of this project is to do full replacements.
- Q5. 4" caliper trees seem quite large and hard to come by. Would the City accept smaller caliper?
A5. No. We have had much success getting larger caliper trees for our projects.
- Q6. In areas with full sidewalk replacement and meter replacement, can meter replacement be back filled with gravel until concrete replacement is ready to be completed?
A6. Yes – the areas must be passable.
- Q7. Is the intent of the service line items for full service replacement or are these items intended to be utilized for the "pigtailed" in and out of the meter settings?
A7. In the majority of cases, these line items are for pigtailed only. Pigtailed shall be run to the back of the sidewalk per City Standard Details WD-2, WD-3 and WD-4 that were handed out at the pre-bid meeting.
- Q8. How about meters in gravel and asphalt?
A8. Areas around these meters shall be replaced in the material that is existing and the cost of the material restoration shall be included in the price of the meter replacement.
- Q9. How about connections to galvanized pipe?
A9. Adapters will be required.

- Q10. Are there any streets within the limits of the project where the allowable work hours may be restricted from the 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. timeframe outlined in the specifications?
- A10. The City's noise ordinance prohibits working between 10pm and 6am anywhere in the City. If the contractor will want to work outside of the 7am to 6pm, permission will need to be obtained from the City.
- Q11. Estimate of number of meters in driveways?
- A11. No specific estimate is available.
- Q12. Can the contractor complete more than ¼ of the work each year to expedite the schedule?
- A12. If the contractor desires to expedite the schedule, the City will attempt to make adjustments to accommodate such. However, due to limitations related to the financing for the project, significant changes to the schedule may not be possible.
- Q13. What is the intent of the bid items for new taps and termination of corp stops?
- A13. There may be a few cases where an entirely new service must be run and the old service terminated, depending on what is found when the meter is excavated.
- Q14. What is the City's preferred method of isolating the service lines to facilitate replacement of the meter setting (crimping, freezing, etc.)?
- A14. Freezing is required, unless approved by the City.
- Q15. The measurement & payment section for Item 21 "Rock Excavation" states that this item includes rock removal and disposal. Will select borrow materials, to replace the rock being removed, be considered incidental to this item?
- A15. Yes, any materials required to replace the location of rock removed shall be considered incidental to the rock removal.
- Q16. Does the City anticipate any work hour restrictions for work within roadways that will fall under the VDOT permit?
- A16. The City will require that work within roadways under the VDOT permit will performed during the contract working hours.
- Q17. Will a financial statement, reviewed by a certified CPA, be acceptable in lieu of the audited financial statement as required by the contractor qualification sheet?
- A17. Yes

- Q18. The City indicated that they will be providing the materials for the meter settings and that the contractor would be responsible for the service line, corporations (if necessary) and couplings for connection to the existing service line. Please confirm if the City will also be providing the meter pits, frames & covers for all installations (3/4"-2").
- A18. Per the measurement and payment section for the Water Distribution System specification, the City will provide the materials for the Water Meter Assembly, 5/8" and 1" only. All materials for 2" installations have been included as separate items in the bid table.
- Q19. The general conditions (6.12 Record Documents, Pg. 00700-24) state that the contractor shall maintain a set of record drawings for the work. Considering that there are no drawings and that the work is limited to meter pit installations, what, if any, "as-built" drawings will be required?
- A19. Redline as-builts would be required for any relocated services and/or meters, as well as the storm pipe and inlet replacements on Fairmont Avenue, and should be prepared in accordance with the City's Public Services Standards Manual, Chapter VIII. For relocated meters, since there are no contract drawings, a simple sketch can be provided showing distances from existing site features. The City would also like to request GPS locations of all meters installed with the project - the bid table has been revised to add Pay Item #49 - As-built Drawings (PDF and CAD files) with GPS locations for all replaced meters, to pay for these as-builts.
- Q20. The special conditions (5.09, Pg. 5) state that the contractor shall provide a DVD recording of the entire project area before construction begins. Will digital photographs of the work areas be an acceptable alternate to the DVD video?
- A20. Ultimately, this is up to the contractor. Should damage occur on private property that has not been documented in a way that is discernable from photos, the Contractor may be held responsible for correcting the damage.
- Q21. Does the City have an area that would be available to the contractor to use for the storage of equipment and materials?
- A21. Yes. The contractor can utilize a storage area at the City's utility yard on Woodstock Lane.
- Q22. Please confirm that there will be no incidental concrete restoration for new meter settings installed in the areas where the full sidewalk replacement is being completed.
- A22. Confirmed. Concrete in areas of full sidewalk replacements (as shown on the plans) will be paid for at the unit price per SY installed.
- Q23. Will the service line installation be measured by the linear foot installed or will the contractor also be paid for the vertical footage in and out of the meter setting?
- A23. Service lines will be measured by the actual footage installed, vertical or horizontal.

- Q24. Are there any specific streets or sections of the City where new meter installations will not be necessary due to recently completed water system upgrades?
- A24. Yes. The streets shown on Figure 3 from the City's sidewalk master plan as well as most homes constructed after 2000 will be excluded. The drawings has been included in Addendum #1.
- Q25. Are the tree plantings limited to the portions of the project where the complete sidewalk replacement is being performed or are these items intended for use across the entire project area?
- A25. New trees will only be planted in areas of full sidewalk replacement.
- Q26. Can the City provide the locations for the 17 tree removals that are included on the bid form? Many factors (proximity to existing structures, location of overhead lines, etc.) can impact the pricing of these items so any information that is available would be helpful in preparing our bid pricing.
- A26. Locations have been included as part of Addendum #1.
- Q27. Can the City provide additional information as to the location of the proposed storm drainage demolitions and installations?
- A27. The location of the storm replacement is shown on the drawings, sheet 23. The storm pipes run between 424 and 430 Fairmont Avenue.
- Q28. RE: Bid Item #42, 43 and 44 Water Service Line – Is the water service line items payment for just replacement/new service line from the corporation stop to the meter assembly or does it also include payment for copper/poly within the meter box and beyond?
- A28. These bid items will be paid for all service line installed, inside and outside the meter box or vault.
- Q29. We feel we have done our due diligence in trying to find a supplier to furnish the 4" Caliper trees that are to be priced. I am getting the same response from tree growers throughout Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. The trees will be no problem to get however the 4" caliper is the one thing that they all claim is going to be the problem. Several of them have said that maybe 5 years ago it would have been easier but as of now there is too much demand and it will take too long to grow to 4" Caliper. Is there any way that the City would recommend a supplier or reduce the caliper?
- A29. See answer to questions #5.
- Q30. Does all Concrete have to be A4 Mix? VDOT standards require A3 if cast in place.
- A30. Per the contract Concrete Specification and City Standards, Class A4 Low Permeability (4,000 psi) Concrete will be required.

- Q31. Can the City confirm the locations where rubber sidewalk will be required?
- A31. Rubber sidewalk will be installed in areas where existing trees remain, as shown on the tree location sheets included in Addendum #1. The color of the sidewalk should match the surrounding sidewalk, so “concrete” where the sidewalk is all concrete and “brick red” where the sidewalk is shown to be brick or brick combo.
- Q32. I have not seen a question and answer sheet posted to your website from the pre-bid meeting, will you be posting that soon?
- A32. All of the questions presented at the pre-bid meeting are included in this list.
- Q33. At the Pre-Bid meeting it was noted that a meter list with roads/address would be provided for review.
- A33. Meter list is included in Addendum #1.
- Q34. To Confirm, City of Winchester is providing the Inlet and Outlet Valves, Yoke Bars and New Meters for the meter replacement items, and the Successful Contractor is to install new meter setups and provide necessary copper, couplings, meter pits and box covers, backfill etc.?
- A34. For 5/8” and 1” meters, the City will provide angle valves, dual check valves, yoke bars, meter boxes and lids, and new meters. The Contractor is responsible for the installation and shall provide necessary copper, couplings, backfill and any other materials for a complete installation.
- Q35. The 3’ pig tale Copper that is necessary for the new meter setup tie ins, is it being considered incidental to the meter replacement item, or is it being paid under the LF Item?
- A35. All copper line will be paid under the contract unit price for copper service line per linear foot.
- Q36. The Bid Items show 17 trees to be removed, however there are none located in the plans. Can you please provide the tree locations for review/pricing purposes?
- A36. The locations of tree removals are included in Addendum #1.
- Q37. No detail was provided for the rubber sidewalk. What is the bedding and material thickness requirements?
- A37. Rubber sidewalk installation shall consist of 4” of #57 stone and 2” of rubber sidewalk.
- Q38. On the “Drop Inlet, Modified DI-1 with Dual Inlet Top (City Standard Detail SD-5) – 2 Total). Do you know the heights or do you have generic height you want us to use?
- A38. The contractor shall verify depths before ordering these structures. The intent is to have the new pipe installed in the same location as the existing.
- Q39. After reviewing this project information with our bonding company, they have confirmed that both the performance and payment bonds must be in the same amount

as the contract written regardless if there is a single contract for the entire contract duration or four (4) separate annual contracts. If the intent is to issue four separate annual contracts and only bond 25% of the project at a time, specific annual work scopes for each of the four years would be required and when added together would still equate to 100% of the project value being bonded. Unfortunately, the annual contract approach would not offer any bond premium savings when compared to applying tiered bonding rates to the total contract value under a single contract approach. Please provide additional clarification regarding the intended contract award and bonding procedures for this project.

A39. It is the City's discretion to determine the amount of the bonds that will be required. The City has determined that performance and payment bonds in the amount of 25% of the total contract value will be adequate for this project. The bonds provided can be such that they are in effect for the full duration of the project, or they can be annual bonds that are renewed each year. Simply put, there must be performance and payment bonds in place for 25% of the contract value at all times throughout the duration of the contract. If the contractor's surety is not able to provide bonds meeting these requirements, then the contractor shall be required to provide performance and payment bonds for the full amount of the contract value for the entire term of the contract.

Q40. Will a single contract be written for the entire project?

A40. Yes.

Q41. Will the owner issue specific work locations for each calendar year of the contract?

A41. No.

Q42. If the intent is truly to bond only 25% of the project, the owner will need to issue a list of meter locations to be covered under the performance and payment bonds. Under this approach, that would mean that the remaining 75% of the project locations would not be bonded. Is the owner willing to identify address locations for the portion of the project (75%) that will not be covered by the performance and payment bonds?

A42. No, this is not necessary.

Q43. What if anything will the City be taking and disposing of from the materials removed from the meter boxes?

A43. Once the meter is removed, all other parts of the existing meter setting may be discarded.

Q44. Is the City willing to change the allotted time/extend this contract more than the 4 years given due to the amount of work and the new item for the plumbers to install new pressure tanks?

A44. No. The City anticipates that since this work will need to be completed by a licensed plumber that it can occur at the same time as the meter replacements.

- Q45. How many meters does the city anticipate the contractor completing in one day?
A45. It will be the contractor's responsibility to set the pace for meter replacements in order to meet the project deadline.
- Q46. Is the City prepared to use change orders for the work inside these residence that is not up to code in order to install the Expansion Tanks? There is no way to price a project with so many unknown factors. If the answer is No, then can the City elaborate more as to what the Scope of Work for this Pay Item is exactly?
A46. Yes.
- Q47. Are we to assume the City is requesting Horizontal and Vertical Coordinates?
A47. Horizontal locations will be required for all water meter locations and both horizontal and vertical will be required for the new storm installation.
- Q48. What datum will the City of Winchester want the as-built meter locations?
A48. Per the City's Public Standards Manual, the datum is NAD88 State Plane, Virginia North.
- Q49. Does Winchester have their own control/traverse points available around the city to work off of?
A49. There is a list of control points in the City's Public Standards Manual; however, as long as you set up on the same datum you should be able to establish your own control points.
- Q50. Can as-builts be submitted as they are prepared? Monthly? Or do you want on larger submittal at the end of the year?
A50. Timeline for submission of as-builts is up to the contractor. They will just need to be submitted before release of the final pay application.
- Q51. Whose responsibility is it to determine if the existing buildings have water heater expansions in place already?
A51. The City inspector will determine which properties will need expansion tanks.
- Q52. Whose responsibility is it to coordinate with the individual home/business owners for inside access?
A52. The City will give notice all property owners in the work area regarding the potential need for access. The plumber will be responsible for coordinating specific days and times with each property owner.
- Q53. Will the City be furnishing the base map (similar to page 1 of the plans) to the contractor in .dwg format for the Asbuilt Drawings?
A53. They City can provide the base layers as ArcGIS shapefiles.

Q54. RE: Contractor Qualification Page 2 of 3, Paragraph 1.4.3 – Financial Statements– Will the City accept Contractors VDOT Prequalification Certificate in lieu of audited financial statement?

A54. Yes.