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Lead Service Line Project Update

Issue: The Lead Service Line project was discussed during the Commission meeting in August and at a special meeting held on July 23, 2024. During this meeting, the Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA), Ms. Van Zant and Roger Homann with Pennoni were present. Following these discussions, the Commission requested a collaborative meeting with Florida Rural Water, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Pennoni, and the City to explore options. This meeting took place on July 26, 2024.

Analysis: The Commission has determined that it would not be fiscally responsible for the City to continue the project under the contract with Pennoni. Instead, it would be in the City's best interest to leverage the services provided under the FRWA grant program to alleviate unnecessary financial burdens.

Key points from the July 26 meeting include:

- **Payment to Engineer:** Based on the FRWA Lead Service Line Inventory program, the payment to the engineer will be:
 - \$10 for each service line listed in the Records Search.
 - An additional \$2 for each service line eliminated from field verification due to sufficient Records Search documentation.
- **Estimated Payment:** While the exact payment amount cannot be determined until the FRWA has received an executed Agreement and approved the Records Search, a general estimate is as follows:
 - Bowling Green has 843 service connections.
 - With an average of 40% of service lines typically eliminated from field verification, approximately 337 service lines may be eliminated.
 - Therefore, the estimated payment to the engineer would be:
 - $(843 \text{ service lines} * \$10) + (337 \text{ eliminated service lines} * \$2) = \$9,104.$



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- **Updated Numbers:** The latest update indicates a total of 1,688 service connections, including two mobile home parks. One of these parks is Pioneer Creek on county property. While the County is responsible for garbage services, the City previously agreed to service Pioneer Creek due to its proximity to City water and wastewater systems through a master meter. This leads to:
 - 1,267 service connections requiring excavation.
 - Updated compensation estimate based on these figures:
 - \$10/location for all listed locations: $1,688 * \$10 = \$16,880$.
 - \$2/location for eliminations: $(1,688 - 1,267) * \$2 = \824 .
 - Total estimated compensation: \$17,722.
 - The Records Search is expected to be completed by the first part of next week (08/12-08/16). The delay in data processing is due to the need to reflect all mobile home units separately.

Additional Information: Pennoni is currently drafting the FRWA Contract, which is anticipated to be provided for review on August 7, 2024. The engineer aims to ensure FRWA's agreement with the numbers in the contract before finalizing the amount to be included in the SRF funding.

Balance and Funding: The balance owed to Pennoni is currently estimated at \$28,000, though the final amount will be confirmed upon agreement with FRWA. At present, FRWA is expected to cover \$17,454. The SRF Funding Manager has indicated that additional funding may be available to cover the City's remaining responsibility, separate from the FRWA funding. Given the complexities involved in qualifying for this additional funding, it would be more practical to settle any remaining balance, which could be between \$13,000 and \$14,000, rather than the full \$125,000.

Staff Recommendation: Given the financial implications and the scope of the project, it is recommended that the City:

1. Utilize the FRWA grant program to handle the Records Search and field verifications.
2. Proceed with the updated payment estimates based on the FRWA compensation table.