June 17, 2022

Memo: Recommendations to use Emergency Procurement authority for pump and motor replacement at Well 11

To: Public Works Committee, and City Council

From: Dale Tech, Public Works Director
Jeff Crockett, Water Superintendent

Background: Well 11 is located at the intersection of Corral Drive and Park Drive in western Rapid City. It is an important water source that provides more than 1 million gallons per day of drinking and irrigation water to thousands of City customers in the south and southwest areas of the City of Rapid City. Well 11 serves as a crucial water supply backup to Well 12, which is the City’s most critical southern area water supply. Together, these Wells serve customers in the following pressure zones: Southwest Zone, Kepps Zone, Parkridge PRV Zone, Springbrook Acre Zone, Red Rock Zone, Selador Zone, Skyline Zone, Enchantment Zone.

Unprecedented supply chain issues, and long equipment lead times are exacerbating water supply downtimes when equipment fails. Extended downtime presents a threat to public health, welfare, and safety if residents and businesses face additional restrictions to their use of municipal water. Well 11 system component replacement was budgeted for 2022, but there are signs of eminent motor failure. Because the pump and motor are located over 500 feet below ground, the City does not have the equipment to pull it from the well. This means that rental equipment cannot provide interim service in the event of motor failure. The typical design and bid process to replace the well equipment does not address the current time constraints of the need for repair. There is an urgent priority to get equipment ordered and replaced at Well 11 in order for the City to continue to provide consistent uninterrupted water for drinking, irrigation, and fire protection.

Recommendation: Staff is recommending approval of a resolution authorizing staff to utilize the Emergency Procurement authority as allowed by SDCL 5-18A-9 in order to replace the equipment at Well 11.

A purchasing agency may make or authorize others to make an emergency procurement without advertising the procurement if rentals are not practicable and there exists a threat to public health, welfare, or safety or for other urgent and compelling reasons. Failure to abide by the bid provisions of this chapter and chapters 5-18B, 5-18C, and 5-18D in a timely manner is not an emergency. An emergency procurement shall be made with such competition as is practicable under the circumstances. A written determination of the basis for the emergency and for the selection of the particular contractor shall be included in the contract file.