

Report

Date April 1, 2026
Subject Hydro Excavating Contract Award

File:

PURPOSE

To authorize the execution of a three-year agreement to perform hydro excavating services.

BACKGROUND

On February 3, staff issued a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for hydro excavating services. The RFQ closed on March 6. The RFQ was advertised on BC Bid and the North Cowichan website in accordance with Section 4 of the Procurement Policy. The Delegation of Authority Bylaw states that Council is required to approve agreements for the purchase of works, services, and goods with a value of more than \$500,000.

DISCUSSION

The Operations Department requires a hydro excavating truck and driver to assist with the excavation of utilities during repair and installation of underground infrastructure including storm, sanitary, and water systems. The hydro excavating unit uses high pressure water to cut soil and a powerful vacuum to remove it. The truck improves job safety for workers by reducing the potential for water, hydro, and gas main damage especially in areas with complex and dense underground infrastructure.

The bids were evaluated based on cost per hour for the service and mandatory equipment requirements, including vehicle water tank, hopper size, and maximum decibel rating. The four bids that were received for the hydro excavating services met the above mandatory requirements. An overview of the scoring for the bidders is outlined below:

Supplier	Scoring	Mandatory Requirements	Pricing 3 Years
Save-On Septic Services Ltd.	100	Pass	\$ 863,500.00
Central Utility Services	98.91	Pass	\$ 873,000.00
GFL Environmental Services	94.99	Pass	\$ 909,000.00
Pipe-Eye Video Inspections	74.66	Pass	\$ 1,156,500.00

**Pricing is based on an estimated 1,200 regular hours and 200 overtime hours per year.*

**Pricing includes all taxes.*

OPTION

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council award the three-year contract for hydro excavating services, in the amount of \$863,500, to Save-On-Septic Services Ltd., and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the contract on behalf of the Municipality of North Cowichan.

IMPLICATIONS

North Cowichan uses hydro excavating services for underground repairs and installations for a minimum of 1,200 hours per year and has issued a request for quotation for the service for 10 plus years. Staff have considered purchase of a hydro excavation truck for use by municipal staff, but the costs are greater than the contract option. The cost associated with the service has already been included in the Operations capital and maintenance budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council award the three-year contract for hydro excavating services, in the amount of \$863,500, to Save-On-Septic Services Ltd., and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the contract on behalf of the Municipality of North Cowichan.

Report prepared by:



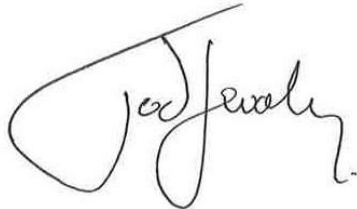
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