

Subject: City shop light replacement project.

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:22:07 AM Alaska Daylight Time

From: PJ Olson

To: Sharon Toman, Brian Wilson, Bridget Wright, Dick Stewart, Bill Bateman, Joel Buchanan

CC: Jean Soderberg, Gina Cavaretta, Heather Hedges

Everyone, I want to give all of you an update on the project.

First, we've cut a check for \$2,024.96, payable to Burling Diesel, to pay for the parts and freight to get our new lights. This is in accordance with the proposal submitted by Burling Diesel and approved by the city council at our March 16th regular council meeting.

Subsequent to the council approving this work we've had legal concerns raised over licensing, legal liability and labor costs.

Also, I've been asked to put this on the April regular meeting agenda for reconsideration, which I have done.

Legal liability and meeting state licensing requirements are always valid reasons for worry.

Of course, running wiring or performing any other basic electrical work would require that we hire a licensed electrical contractor to do paid work.

In this particular case I'm unclear on what is required of us. The current shop lights are hung from the ceiling and plugged into an outlet. Each light has an outlet right next to it on the ceiling. This project does not include any rewiring of what exists right now in the shop.

The work, as I understand it and as presented to the council at the meeting, is simply to unplug the old lights, take them down from the ceiling, rig new chain supports for the new lights, hang them and plug them in.

It was brought up at a recent council meeting that the City might face some legal liability should anything go wrong with the new lights. It has also been mentioned to me that the City could face legal action by disaffected licensed electrical contractors. What the council hasn't seen is anything to support those fears.

So that is my first request, please come to the April regular council meeting with any facts, information, regulations, laws, etc. that would support having the council renege on the agreement that we entered into with Burling Diesel.

The labor costs that the council agreed to seem high at first glance but after thinking about all of the work that Burling Diesel put in to source the proper lights, the time put in ordering the parts and the time that will be spent driving over to Craig or Thorne Bay to pick up the shipment (none of which is being charged to us) the total cost of \$800 labor begins to look much more reasonable.

We all know how expensive it is to have freight delivered to Coffman Cove from Craig or Thorne Bay. The cost for that alone could amount to half of the total labor cost we've agreed to if done by an independent contractor. Naturally we would have the option to send a city employee or volunteer at lower or no cost but those options were not part of our conversation with Burling Diesel.

Next steps:

1. Burling Diesel has the check in hand to order the parts we need. That part of our agreement is in process and we'll be getting the lights and associated parts.

2. I'll ask that Burling Diesel hold off on any actual installation work until council reconsideration at the April meeting.

3. At the April meeting council members please come prepared to offer demonstrable facts or other information that would support changing our agreement. Overriding legal considerations would appear to be the only thing that could persuade the council to renege on an existing agreement but if something else pertains we would certainly entertain it.

4. As always, the public is invited and encouraged to attend the meeting to offer facts or other real information for council consideration.

The question to be answered by the council at the April regular meeting is: do we renege on the labor portion of our agreement with Burling Diesel and if we do how do we proceed with hanging and plugging in the new lights.

Thanks.

PJ Olson.
Mayor, Coffman Cove.

P.S. Jean, Gina - please print this email out with a copy to each council member, a copy to Burling Diesel and copies posted in the usual public places.