

**TO:** Dow Powell, Columbia Falls School District No. 6 Owners Representative

**CC:** Max Grebe, AIA, LPW Architecture

**FROM:** Aaron McConkey, PE

**DATE:** 5-6-2020

**JOB NO.:** 4458.084.01

**RE:** Columbia Falls School District Multi-Use Sports Fields Project – Bid Opening and Recommendation of Award

**CC:**

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Urgent     
  For Review     
  Please Comment     
  Please Reply     
  For Your Use

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## Background

The Columbia Falls Multi-Purpose Sports Field project consists of new sports fields, irrigation system and parking lot located between the Columbia Falls Junior High and Ruder Elementary School along Talbot Road. The sports fields consist of four primary areas that can be programmed for multiple sports activities such as soccer, lacrosse and football. Additionally, multiple arrangements of soccer fields can be accommodated for different youth tournaments and demands. The project is part of the 2019 Columbia Falls School Bond.

Project designs were completed in April and the advertisement for bids were noticed in the Daily Interlake April 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. In addition to public notices, the project was hosted by Morrison-Maierle's QuestCDN bidding portal and distributed to the Montana Plans Exchange.

Bids were accepted by the District's office until 2:00PM Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at which time bids were opened and read aloud. Five responsive bids were received by local and regional contractors registered with the State of Montana experienced in completion of similar projects.

The bid results are as follows:

Bidder	Total Bid Price: Base Bid
Finmark Construction, LLC dba Copperforge Underground	\$ 1,035,477.88
LHC Inc.	\$ 1,076,122.20
Watson Excavation	\$ 1,121,633.55
Sandry Construction	\$ 1,126,844.00
Knife River	\$ 1,990,719.50
Engineer's Estimate	\$ 1,048,581.50

References for Finmark Construction LLC, dba Copperforge Underground have been contacted and interviewed. Copperforge Underground is based out of Kalispell, MT and has been doing civil earthworks projects for private and commercial properties since 2017. The project manager and project

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superintendent have provided resumes for past construction companies that predate Copperforge Underground.

The bid received from Copperforge Underground was enclosed in an opaque envelope as instructed, but did not list the bidders name. Within Article 19 of Section 00200 Instructions to Bidders the Owner has the ability to waive this omission as a minor irregularity not impacting project schedule or price.

#### **Budget Control**

The project bids received the project budget as established in the pre-bond construction estimates. As an effort to regain budget control Copperforge Underground met with the Engineer to discuss unit price work that could be reduced while still maintaining the project's key functions. Several items were identified and proposed reduction of scope would allow the project to move into construction with a contract value of \$960,978.92. Within this scope of work reduction are several items including the following:

- Reduce the number of drywells within the sports field area
- Reduce the number of parking lot approaches to 1
- Eliminate the parking lot gate
- Eliminate the removal of existing chain-link fence and the addition of 155 ft of new fence along the east side of the new parking lot

#### **Engineer's Recommendation**

Award the bid for Columbia Falls School District Multi Purpose Sports Field Project to Finmark Construction LLC, dba Copperforge Underground for the Base Bid amount with a concurrent change order to reduce the original contract value to \$960,978.92.

#### **Alternatives**

Bids remain current for 60 days in accordance to the Instructions to Bidders, the District Board may take alternative actions as suggested and approved by the School District Board

#### **Attachments**

- Bid Tabulations.
- Bid Form with noted reduced quantities

