



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Fred Abadi, PhD, PE, Director
fabadi@ci.waukesha.wi.us

To: Board of Public Works

CC: Fred Abadi, PhD, PE, Public Works Director
From: Jeff Hernke, Project Manager
Date: May 5, 2016
Subject: Bid for Installation of City Supplied Generator and Transfer Switches at Metro Transit Facility

The DPW- Engineering Division opened a public bid on April 29, 2016 for the Installation of City supplied Generator and Transfer Switches at the Metro Transit Facility. Two bids were received: Circuit Masters Electric in the amount of \$46,900 and Vinii Solar Engineering and Electric in the amount of \$16,342. At the bid opening, the representative from Vinii Solar was present and seemed surprised by the large gap in bids. He asked what materials were being supplied by the City, and he was informed, as the bid stated, the Generator, Transfer Switches, and Remote Annunciator. The Engineers estimate for contractor supplied materials is more than the bid submitted by Vinii Solar

Monday morning, I started calling the references that were given by Vinii Solar as required per the Bidder's Proof. I contacted the City of Racine, Toki & Associates, Village of Allouez – Green Bay, and the City of Oconomowoc. I had left a message with the City of Oconomowoc with no response back as of noon on Wednesday, May 04, 2016. I did speak with the other three references

1. City of Racine:

- I spoke with Sheli Schroeder (262-636-9462) at the City of Racine Engineering office. Civil Engineer / Electrical Projects.
- She stated that Vinii Solar was very slow going on the project. Did not have the proper equipment available for the project being done. Had to hire Pieper Line to finish a portion of the work. At the time of my call to her (Monday, May 4, 2016) Vinii Solar was 14 days into liquidated damages for that project.
- The project was Street Lighting, for Mt. Pleasant & South streets for a contract value of \$152,417.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING DIVISION Paul G. Day, PE City Engineer 130 Delafield St Waukesha, WI 53188 262-524-3600 Fax – 262-524-3898	<input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL PARKING SERVICES Patti Cruz Parking Supervisor 241 South St Waukesha, WI 53188 262-524-3622 Fax – 262-650-2573	<input type="checkbox"/> STREETS DIVISION 300 Sentry Dr Waukesha, WI 53186 262-524-3615 Fax – 262-524-3612	<input type="checkbox"/> WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT Jeff Harenda WWTP Manager 600 Sentry Dr Waukesha, WI 53186 262-524-3625 Fax – 262-524-3632	<input type="checkbox"/> WAUKESHA METRO TRANSIT Brian Engelking Transit Manager 2311 Badger Dr Waukesha, WI 53188 262-524-3594 Fax – 262-524-3646
---	--	---	---	--

2. Toki and Associates:

- I spoke with Jerry Rantanen (414-463-2700) at their main office. General Contractor.
- He stated that Vinii Solar is a great contractor, never had any issues with any projects they have done together. They used them to do a 130Kw generator install for New Testament Church, the bid was \$41,494 and the generator was supplied for Vinii Solar to do the full installation.
- The owner of Toki is: Theophilus Iyasele, Toki is located at 7100 W. Fond Du Lac Ave, Suite 201, City of Milwaukee.
- The owner of Vinii Solar is: Vinko Iyasele, Vinii Solar is located at 7100 W. Fond Du Lac Ave, Suite 101A, City of Milwaukee.
- When talking with Mr. Rantanen, he never disclosed any relationship between the two companies.

3. Village of Allouez – Green Bay:

- I spoke with Chris Clark (920-448-2800) at the Village Hall. Director of Parks.
- He stated that Vinii Solar did a good job in general. Vinii Solar was easy to work with and were up to suggestions for the project. There were issues after completion however, Vinii Solar did resolve the issues. The project was not finished on time; there were no liquidated damages towards Vinii Solar. If he was to hire them again he would make sure there were certain stipulations in the contract to make sure the project was completed on time.
- The project was new supplied softball lighting for a contract of \$83,394.

Engineering did reach out to Vinii Solar on Tuesday, May 5, 2016, however the call went to voicemail, a message was left to contact Paul Day, no calls were returned from Vinii Solar.

After the reference checks, the Engineering Division is recommending that the Board of Public Works reject the low bid and approves the next low bidder.

The Budget for the project has the funds to cover the \$46,900 as bid by the 2nd bidder.