

## Panel backs \$1.1 million bid for dam repairs

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN  
Wednesday, 12 June 2013 18:30

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### Public Works Board wants Marshfield firm to upgrade village's Bridge St. landmark

Plans to upgrade Grafton's Bridge Street dam moved one step closer to reality this week when the village's Public Works Board recommended accepting a low bid for repairs that would bring the downtown landmark into compliance with state flood-control regulations.

Staab Construction of Marshfield submitted a bid of \$1.1 million for work that includes repairing both abutments, widening the spillway, installing a hydraulic crest gate, raising the grade of the riverwalk and rebuilding the overlook area.

The other bid for the same work was \$1.46 million, submitted by Lunda Construction of Little Chute.

A consultant estimated the total project cost, including design work and construction management, at \$1.2 million. Although the village will have to pay most of the cost, it is eligible for a Department of Natural Resources grant of up to \$400,000, which would leave the local share at \$800,000.

Village Administrator Darrell Hofland said the scope of project could be changed, depending on what upgrades are grant eligible. The village is waiting for the DNR to review the proposed improvements before finalizing the project, he said.

Another option, which doesn't include riverwalk and overlook upgrades, could pare the reconstruction cost to \$913,260, which Staab submitted as an alternate bid. Lunda's bid for the same work was \$1.29 million.

Hofland said the village was expecting more than two bids for the work, details of which have been discussed since last fall.

"Although it was expected that there would be more bids, having only two contractors bid indicates that this is a unique construction project," he said.

Village Engineer Dave Murphy recommended approving a contract with Staab for the \$1.1 million project, which he said would still give the village cost-trimming options.

"If there are parts of this that the Village Board does not want built, the village can work with the contractor to reduce or eliminate items in the bid to reduce the scope of work," Murphy said in a report to the Works Board.

The Village Board is scheduled to discuss the project Monday, June 17. If no action is taken until the board's July 1 meeting, the start of repair work — tentatively set for mid-July — could be delayed until early August, Hofland said.

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The upgrades are expected to take until at least November to complete.

Trustee Susan Meinecke, who has publicly criticized the rising cost of dam repairs, was the only Works Board member voting against the bid recommendation.

The dam repairs are included in this year's village budget. The DNR grant is only available through 2013.