

Township Awards New Contract That Lowers GIS Costs

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Hillsborough's Township Committee acted to save over \$100,000 on the cost of its web based Geographic Information System (GIS) as a result of seeking competitive proposals, when it awarded a GIS contract to Maser Consulting for a total \$75,485 for a five year period, at Tuesday's Committee meeting.

Mayor Frank DelCore said, "The Township is currently paying \$36,000 per year, or \$180,000 for five years, for a web based Geographic Information System. We sought to reduce those costs through competition and have succeeded."

Six companies submitted sealed proposals that were rated by an Evaluation Committee, consisting of the Assistant Township Engineer, Tax Assessor, IT Director, Planner, and the Assistant to the Township Engineer who operates the Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) system. The Evaluation Committee reviewed all proposals, conducted interviews and recommended Maser Consulting for the service.

The GIS system, which is used by most municipal departments as an information resource is also available to the public via the internet. It provides numerous maps and land use data layers including; tax parcel data, zoning designation, census data, aerial photography FEMA data, designated parklands, wetlands, soil classifications, flood areas, recreation and open space inventory, catch basins, outfalls and fire hydrants, as built plans of roadways linked to streets, and roadway names.

The cost of the five year contract will be \$31,491 in the first year, which includes start up costs, and \$10,998.50 annually for the next four years. The Township is presently paying Jungle Laser \$36,000 per year under a 2003 contract.

Mayor DelCore stated, "We are advised that the depth of information that needs to be developed for the GIS system makes annual contract renewal unworkable. The five year term is permitted by state law."

DelCore concluded, "As a result of the process the taxpayers save money and the staff obtains a better product from which we expect greater efficiency."