



Memorandum



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

TO: Administration & Finance Committee and Board of Public Works

FROM: Michael Lewis, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

DATE: January 5, 2010

RE: **Communication from City Engineer Regarding Purchasing an
Emergency Generator for the 97th Street Water Reservoir**

Michael G. Lewis
City Engineer

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As everyone knows, Gordy Paprocki does an excellent job getting used equipment/vehicles for the City at great prices. Gordy recently found an emergency generator that could be used at the 97th Street Water Reservoir through the Wisconsin Division of Federal Properties for about \$30,000. Similar generators could cost up to \$500,000 according to information from the Internet.

At this price, it's going to go fast. We currently use a portable generator, much smaller in size, and have to manually plug it in. The proposed generator would be stand-alone and have switchgear to automatically turn on when the power goes out. Considering that most City buildings have stand alone generators, it seems to me that installing the same thing at our water reservoir affords us additional "insurance" if something major happens.

This all came up fast late last week. The generator is on it way up from Alabama to Kenosha and we don't know how long it will be available. There are still some internal issues that have to be worked through. We wouldn't be pursuing this if we were talking about \$500,000. But at \$30,000 for the generator and even if installation is another \$20,000 (this is high since a lot of work would be done by our crews), for \$50,000 to get a generator of sufficient size for the water reservoir is an idea worth pursuing.

If for whatever reason it won't work (and I am still working through the details), we won't buy it. But I hate to miss a chance and we might not have that chance if we wait another 2 weeks until the next Council meeting.

CC: Mayor Dan Devine
Paul Ziehler, CAO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the signature of Michael G. Lewis.