

NEWS *from Middletown, Pa.*

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Three bidders express interest in water-sewer RFP

Three potential bidders interested in leasing Middletown's water and wastewater systems have responded to the Borough's Request for Proposals, Middletown Borough Council and the Middletown Borough Authority have announced.

United Water Inc., Aqua Resources Inc., and Severn Trent Services each have expressed an interest in the potential concession/lease of the systems. All three bidders have experience operating water systems in Pennsylvania.

The Water/Wastewater lease exploration committee, and its legal counsel and financial advisors are pleased with the initial response to the RFP. The initial response serves two important purposes. First, it allows the Borough to ascertain whether there were potential interested bidders in the market for the lease of the system. Second, the Borough can begin the process of determining whether the potential bidders are both operationally and financially qualified to lease and operate the system.

The team will continue to evaluate each potential bidder over the next several months to determine whether there is a potential partner that can satisfy the Borough's financial goals, the Borough's interest in the future of its employees, and the Borough's very high standards regarding system operations and customer service.

The Borough promises to continue to strive for transparency during this process and will update the public as the process continues.

More information regarding why the Borough and the Authority are exploring a potential lease can be found on the Borough's website. Copies of the RFP, the proposed form of the Concession and Lease Agreement, and the proposed form of Operating Standards, are also available on the Borough's website.

To find out more about each of the companies that responded, please visit their websites:

United Water, Inc. - www.unitedwater.com

Aqua Resources, Inc. - www.aquaamerica.com

Severn Trent Services - www.severntrentservices.com