MINUTES
SAGINAW AREA GIS AUTHORITY
SPECIAL EXECUTIVE MEETING
March 7, 2013
(9:00am)
City of Saginaw Technical Services Dept.

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Members Present: Rob Grose, Chairman; Paul Moore, Treasurer; Johnathan Miller, Member; Tom Luck, Member; Dan Sherman, Member .

Others Present: Dan Hoffman and Bill Jeruski, GIS Authority.

Meeting called to order at 9:00am by Chairman Grose.

Discuss SAGA Website Re-Development Options:

It was reported that all county data is now maintained in BS&A software. The majority of municipalities are utilizing .Net, however, Sherman reported that approximately 40% of members are still on Pervasive. Currently the Pervasive data is usually only updated to the web once a year.

Pervasive photos and sketches would not be available on the new web.

Hoffman reported that BS&A would be able to write a script for a one time fee that would be able to automate all of the data for .NET for update to the new website.

Due to the differences in the way .NET operates versus Pervasive, it is envisioned that .NET users would see their data update daily on the web whereas Pervasive users would see a once yearly update, generally after March Board of Review.

Sherman stated his services might be available to help SAGA with the transition form the current website to the new one.

It was suggested that SAGA investigate the web design team at BS&A. Revise, out of Farmington Hills, Michigan who designed the new Saginaw Township website, were also suggested..

Hoffman said that SAGA needs to get the data side of a new website figured out first before investigating web designers in depth. He stated

that BS&A would be the best choice to maintain SAGA's database, even if, in the end, they prove too costly to actually house the data. It was stated that a price would be solicited from BS&A for a cost on possible data hosting.

Grose asked if there would be more commercial building data on the new web. Sherman stated there was a difficulty for BS&A to do both residential and commercial data. He stated basic info would come from a central source, possibly Saginaw County Equalization, and then from there would be linked to the individual municipalities for more in depth assessor derived information.

GISi (Geographic Information Systems, Inc.):
Hoffman put forth the City of Novi interactive map website produced by GISi as a possible direction SAGA may want to go for their new website.
http://www.cityofnovi.org/Community/Maps.asp#Interactive
http://www.gisinc.com/
He said GISi would be able to set up an interactive map for SAGA with three templates, scripts, etc for $18,000. There would be no annual fee as SAGA would be responsible for any ongoing maintenance. It was noted that this service is not a full web design.

GISi said they would be able to grab all BS&A data and put it in a web template.

Amalgam, LLC:
Hoffman also put forth Amalgam, LLC who created the current GIS site for Midland County.
http://www.co.midland.mi.us/gismapping/
http://www.amalgamonline.com
In this case Amalgam pulls data from BS&A and then sets up a custom template to get it on the web.

One Amalgam, LLC tool that the committee was impressed with was an automated buffer tool that allows users to input a buffer distance (i.e. 300') from a chosen point and then create a mailing list that could automatically be saved to Excel. Sherman said additional available tool options are; adding base maps, drawing lines, and sketch tools among others.

Amalgam, LLC would charge $4,000 to set up only the mapping side of the web. There would be no development costs.

Sherman said the City of Saginaw would be able to set up the server side and show SAGA how to set up templates.

Moving Forward:

Hoffman told the committee that there are three facets to creating a new SAGA website:
Database
IMS
Homepage Design

Grose stated SAGA would need to go through the RFP process in order to contract for the work on a new website. He also asked if prospective companies should be required to do a presentation of their proposals before the executive committee. Moore and Miller both said yes.

At this time it was suggested that SAGA concentrate on the IMS Side of the new web.

Sherman pointed out that if SAGA decided to go with BS&A to host the web data they might want to consider a charge to use the website to help offset this cost. Grose said it should be assumed in this process that SAGA would absorb any hosting cost so as to keep the website free to the public. The committee agreed.

Grose asked Hoffman to contact GISi to confirm exactly what their $18,000 fee would include and also if there would be any ongoing cost. Hoffman was also asked to get a firm cost from BS&A to host the data as well as to develop the homepage.

Grose asked Hoffman and Sherman to draft an RFP for the work as soon as possible.

Miller suggested that in looking for a design firm to do the new SAGA Homepage the committee consider the contractor that did the work for the City of Bay City site.
http://www.baycitymi.org/departments/assessor

Final Discussions:

It was decided the best course at this point would be to concentrate on the Database and IMS side of development and still maintain the current SAGA Homepage. Once these first two facets are in order then a search should be conducted to find a firm to redo the Homepage Design.

Sherman asked if he would be considered, as an independent contractor, to submit a plan for the IMS Side of the project. Both Miller and Grose said yes. There was no dissent to the request.

Other Business:
The Executive meeting for April 1 is cancelled and rescheduled for April 11 at 9am at the City of Saginaw Technical Services Department.
NOTE: On March 14, after this meeting was adjourned, the April 11 meeting was itself rescheduled to Wednesday April 10 at 8am at the City of Saginaw Technical Services Department (1435 S. Washington Avenue, Saginaw, MI).

Adjournment:
Meeting adjourned at 10:05am.

Next Executive Meeting – 8:00am, April 10, 2013 at City of Saginaw Technical Services Department (1435 S. Washington Avenue, Saginaw, MI)

Next General Meeting – 9:00am, April 15, 2013 at MSU Extension.

Minutes prepared by Bill Jeruski