

## MEMORANDUM

**Subject:** Award Recommendation

**Project:** **Town of Belmont – Grove Street Baseball and Basketball Court Renovations**

**Project No.** 23024.00

**Date:** 24 August 2023

**To:** Mr. Jay Marcotte, MPA Director  
Belmont Department of Public Works

**By:** Jonathan Charwick, RLA  
Associate Principal

**Delivery:** via email ([jmarcotte@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:jmarcotte@belmont-ma.gov))

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Per the public bid opening on July 11, 2023 for the Grove Street Baseball and Basketball Court Renovations, five (5) bids were received and M.J Cataldo was the apparent low bidder at \$939,612.00. M.J. Cataldo has worked in the Town of Belmont as recent as this past year on renovations to Town Field and they have worked with Activitas on several projects including renovations to the Ayer Shirley Regional High School's athletic complex, Poole Field in Dedham and Dexter Southfield's baseball field. Each of these projects included natural grass field renovations similar to the scope of work include in the Grove Street renovation project.

M.J. Cataldo plans on using Sports Turf Specialties, Inc. out of Wrentham, MA as a sub-contractor for the baseball field construction. Dennis Brolin built the original grass field and was the field manager for the Patriots when they moved to Gillette. For the last 15 years or so he has been considered without question the premier field builder throughout New England and down the east coast. He does all of the project work for the Red Sox at Fenway Park, and works each year prepping the fields for the Mets, Yankees and other major and minor league clubs. He has also built and/or maintained hundreds of public fields in New England. Based on this information, we believe M.J. Cataldo meets the specification requirements and is the lowest responsible bidder.

The preliminary opinion of probable costs for construction developed in December 2022 was \$869,478.53. M.J. Cataldo's bid exceeds the construction budget by \$70,133.47. The scope of work included in the December 2022 opinion of costs is consistent with the scope of work included in the project drawings and specifications that were bid on by M.J. Cataldo and the other four bidders. This 7.5% escalation in cost from 2022 is a result of the current construction climate which continues to be volatile. In 2022, the costs of asphalt had come down, however, since then, asphalt costs have again risen along with costs for fencing, both of which have resulted in an increase in cost.

Bid Award Recommendation  
24 August 2023

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Basketball Court Renovations

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# ACTIVITAS

If you have any questions or comments on the enclosed information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (413) 222 - 5287 or by email at [jon@activitas.com](mailto:jon@activitas.com).

Respectfully,

ACTIVITAS



**Jonathan Charwick, RLA**  
Associate Principal  
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