

GENERAL INFORMATION AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS
SUBMITTING QUALIFICATIONS FOR 2017 CONTRACT
FOR POSITION OF TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

- I. Invitation to Submit Qualifications.** The Township of Deerfield is requesting qualifications from individuals and/or firms for the following contract for the year 2017: Township Solicitor. The qualifications are being solicited through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, *et. seq.*
- II. Submitting and Delivery of Qualifications.** Qualifications must be submitted on or before October 18, 2016 and may be submitted either by mail or in person by the prospective contractor or his agent. Qualifications must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and plainly marked "Qualifications for 2017 Township Solicitor Contract" and the envelope also shall have plainly marked on it the name and address of the prospective contractor. Please submit 3 copies of your qualifications.
- III. Time and Place for Acceptance of Qualifications.** The Deerfield Township Clerk has been designated as the person authorized to receive all qualifications. All qualifications must be submitted in sealed envelopes to the Township Clerk, Township of Deerfield, 736 Landis Avenue, P.O. Box 350, Rosenhayn, New Jersey, 08352, either by mail or in person by the prospective contractor or his agent on or prior to October 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., prevailing time. The Township Clerk will record the date and time of receipt of all qualifications on the sealed envelope. No qualifications will be received after the time designated for receipt.
- IV. Contract Description and Qualifications.** The Township Solicitor shall perform all of the services customarily performed by a Township Solicitor of a municipality the size of the Township of Deerfield. Such services include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:
- a. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Township Committee;
 - b. Prepare all required resolutions and ordinances;
 - c. Receive, review and respond to all correspondence pertaining to the Township's legal matters;
 - d. Review, research and render such written and/or verbal legal opinions as the Township may require;
 - e. Assist Bond Counsel, if requested by Bond Counsel, in the preparation and processing of all bonding procedures;
 - f. Render any and all other legal services required by the Township;
 - g. Handle tax appeals before the County Board of Taxation and the Tax Court both of which will be considered litigation;
 - h. Represent the Township in grievance arbitration, when asked by Labor Counsel,

which will be considered litigation;

- i. Represent the Township at Construction Board of Appeals hearings and hearings under the Township's Demolition Ordinance, both of which shall be considered as litigation;
- j. Assist in the negotiation and preparation of collective bargaining agreements;
- k. Prepare deeds and attend closings of title with respect to sales of Township property.

The contractor shall possess all required State of New Jersey licenses or certifications.

The resumes or *curricula vitae* of all individuals who will perform services under the contract on behalf of the Township of Deerfield shall be submitted with the prospective contractor's qualifications.

Please state the financial compensation for the Township Solicitor position as follows:

The retainer amount for the solicitor's attendance at all Township Committee regular and special meetings (minimum of 25). Payments will be made equal to one-twelfth of the retainer each month;

- 1) The rate for legal services per hour; and**

A proposed contract may be submitted with the contractor's qualifications.

V. Selection Process & Award of Contract. Upon receipt of qualifications, the Township Clerk will transmit copies of each statement of qualifications to a review committee that consists of members of the Township Committee. Qualifications will be evaluated on the basis of the following considerations:

- a. A description of the contractors municipal law experience and reputation of the prospective contractor in the field that is the subject matter of the contract;
- b. Knowledge of the Township of Deerfield, issues that are unique to Deerfield Township and the subject matter to be addressed under the contract;
- c. Availability to accommodate any required meetings of the Township of Deerfield or its various departments;
- d. Any professional certifications possessed by the contractor;
- e. Other factors as demonstrated to be in the best interest of the Township of Deerfield;
- f. Certification of no ethical complaints or malpractice within the last five years. If a complaint was filed, provide a detailed explanation of each such

- complaint;
- g. A certificate of professional liability insurance coverage with limits of not less than one million dollars per person, per occurrence.

Upon completion of the review process, the review committee shall transmit its findings and recommendations to the Township Committee which may award the subject contract on or about January 4, 2017 by resolution.

- VI. Obligation of Prospective Contractor.** At the time of receipt of the statement of qualifications, each prospective contractor will be presumed to have read and to be thoroughly familiar with the contents of the notice of availability of requests for qualifications that has been posted on the Township of Deerfield website and with the contents of this document. The failure or omission of any prospective contractor to receive or examine either document shall in no way relieve any prospective contractor from any obligation with respect to the proposal submitted.
- VII. Investigation of Qualifications.** The Township of Deerfield will make such investigations as it deems necessary to determine the responsibility of the prospective contractor and the prospective contractor shall furnish the Township of Deerfield all such information as may be requested by the Township of Deerfield notwithstanding the fact that the release of such information to the Township of Deerfield may result in the disqualification of the prospective contractor and the qualifications submitted.
- The Township of Deerfield reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or the investigation of, such prospective contractor fails to satisfy the Township of Deerfield that such prospective contractor properly is qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract for the work as provided and as described in this document.
- VIII. Signing of Qualifications Documentation.** The qualification documentation that is submitted by the prospective contractor shall be signed by the individual or on behalf of the entity to be bound by the contract.
- IX. New Jersey Business Registration Certificate.** Business organizations or individuals doing business in New Jersey are required to register with the Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue. Prospective contractors submitting qualifications shall submit a copy of their business registration certificate to the Township of Deerfield at the time that the qualification is submitted to the Township. See N.J.S.A. 52:32-44b (1). Failure to comply with this paragraph shall result in disqualification of the prospective contractor.
- X. Miscellaneous.**
- a. Nothing herein shall be construed as an obligation on the part of the Township of Deerfield to award the subject contract under the fair and open procedures described above and the Township of Deerfield, after review of qualifications that have been submitted, if deemed to be in the best interests of the Township of Deerfield, specifically reserves the right to award the subject contract by utilizing

General Information and Specifications (continued)

the non-fair and open procedures that are set forth at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, *et seq.*

- b. All contracts awarded by the Township of Deerfield shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the Laws of the State of New Jersey.
- c. If awarded a contract, you or your company/firm shall be required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 *et seq.* and N.J.A.C. 17:27 (EEO in public contracts).
- d. For additional information contact: Karen Seifrit, Township Clerk/Administrator, Deerfield Township Municipal Building, 736 Landis Avenue, Bridgeton, New Jersey, 08302, 856-455-3200.

RFPQ-Solicitor