

North Jersey NIGP Chapter #7
Chartered October 26, 1977
President: James J. Jorgensen
Treasurer/Membership: Jane Foti
Vice President: Cindy Lea Weber
Secretary: Paula S. Ferreira

Minutes

Regular Meeting

December 8, 2010

The Imperia Conference Center
Somerset, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by President Jim Jorgensen.

After the flag salute, self introductions were made.

Jim called for a moment of silence for those serving in the Armed Services.

Treasurers report given by Jane Foti. Jane said everyone should have received invoices for membership for the coming year.

Motion to approve Treasurers report.

Motion to approve minutes from September meeting

Joe Valenti- Bureau Chief, NJ Dept of Community Affairs (retired)

Legislative update

This is for Local governments and the State of NJ. How to get stimulus money for energy projects? We still have to follow prevailing wage. The Federal Government has a similar situation. In addition to prevailing wage it also has to be approved on the Federal level. Joe got a phone call regarding Davis Bacon, so he called the division of wage and hour. Washington wouldn't call NJ and NJ wouldn't call Washington. They were going to put both in. This went on for 2 weeks and no one called the other. They found out that NJ's prevailing wage was more stringent of the two. They have no idea how money is being spent. Then Joe got a phone call about 2 weeks later from State of NJ. They were also getting stimulus money. It was going to the State Treasurer. This went back and forth once again. Joe said this is what you have to do. They are going to put together a process. You can't always say that the State is the most stringent of the two.

S514 – "I made a mistake I want my bid back". This bill is going to go through. Judgmental versus clerical, what is judgmental? You will have to accept as a clerical error. No definition of clerical error in Local Public Contracts Law. We do not get to keep the bid bond because they are asking for a withdrawal. They have 5 days after bid opening and it has to be in writing. Once they ask for withdrawal they cannot bid on job again.

A3285- Project budgets and estimates. This will force you to put a cost estimate in the newspaper ad and bid document. This information is available anyway. What happens if estimates are off? Big projects change all the time. The threshold is \$500,000.00. This puts a lot of pressure on engineers.

It supposedly will cut down on change orders. If we have to give them our estimates they should give us their value engineering. Trying to be too precise and creating other issues.

A3493- Engineering equipment. This is for utility work. Must have a minimum of 2 brand names or at least 2 equivalent or descriptions. Joe sat at a meeting and this is what engineers had to say. For the engineer it's a matter of money. It will be too difficult to come up with a minimum 2 brand names plus equivalency. Somebody will have to pay for this.

A2769- Must only name or list the 4 prime subs. This is the 2nd revision. This affects school boards also.

S2320- Pay to Play. Create one uniform law applicable to all levels of government. Anything over \$17,500.00 will have to file.

Question-"If a project runs more than 1 yr. what do you do in regards to Pay to Play?"

Answer-You do not have to change horses in mid stream. Do "Non Fair and Open". Limit is still at \$300.00. Non profits are excluded. Chapter 271 only to protect the locals that already had Pay to Play in place.

Kathy Cupano- Assistant Director Rutgers University, Center for Government Services

Rutgers calendars and Spring schedules are on the tables. Update on registration. Purchasing is the only area that has maintained and increased its numbers which is attributed solely to the Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) certification. There is lots of confusion about the QPA. Rutgers held summer purchasing courses this year. Purchasing did extremely well. Rutgers will continue to hold Purchasing classes in the summer of 2011 as well. Conference committee has met twice already. The Conference theme for 2011 will be "From PA to QPA we have come a long way". Some topics will include legislative update with Fran Shames and Joe Valenti, Online auctions, State Contracts with Jane Foti of Somerset County, Bid Protests with Mary Lou Stanton of Somerset County, Bonding and Surety, Communications Strategies with Jim Jorgensen of Essex County and of course a QPA update.

Jim Jorgensen presented *Jeopardy Purchasing Holiday Style*, which offered a Jeopardy board game purchasing refresher quiz for all audience participation.

With no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Networking and lunch were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula S. Ferreira, Secretary