

**North Jersey NIGP Chapter #7**

**Chartered October 26, 1977**

**Minutes**

**Regular Meeting**

**June 20, 2012**

**The Imperia Conference Center**

**Somerset, New Jersey**

**President- *James J. Jorgensen***

**Treasurer-*Jane Foti***

**Vice President-*Cindy Belanger***

**Secretary-*Paula S. Ferreira***

Vice President Cindy Belanger will run the meeting because President James Jorgensen is unable to attend.

Flag salute and self introductions were made.

Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Jane Foti.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

**Marylou Stanton, Purchasing Agent, Somerset County**

Cosponsor for the committee for the Purchasing Forum in 2013. NJAC has a certification program for Administrators; however it is not just for Administrators, it is open to everyone. It is a 2 day course partnered with Rutgers. There will be another QPA review course in October.

**Ethics**

This appeared in newspapers in March that NJ has the lowest corruption risk. This is the editorial that accompanied it. Christie goes wobbly on ethics. Majority of us are QPA's. We must possess authority and responsibility. The public expects us to be honest, have integrity and justice and fairness. We must earn the public trust.

NJ has always been corrupt. One of the reasons we have Local Public Contract Law is because we were such a corrupt state. Mary Lou has been collecting articles on corruption for 40 years. She is now emptying drawer. Things have not changed. Not just in NJ. Think back to the Garden of Eden. Not just the US. Who needs to be ethical? It must go from the bottom to the top; from the mailroom custodian on up. Ethics is another form of trade; both horizontal and vertical. Why is bid rigging done? Lack of morals? Who is watching? There is always someone watching. It could be a member of the public, vendor, peer or some one in the office. What are traits that lead to bid rigging? Fear, ego, infidelity? Why do we get caught? In the public sector we have checks and balances, audits. Perpetrator gets sloppy. Sunday NY times an ostrich with its head in sand. Standing next to it is a snake with fangs out. Are we suffering from moral dystrophy? A good example is the Sandusky case. Someone else must have known. People who choose not to tell are just as guilty. We have economic indicators daily. We get recession fatigue. Everybody says everything is going down so it must be. We have all gone through green fatigue. Seminars about green, green, green. I think most of us have gotten green fatigue. Ethics fatigue? Hunting for CEU's. Ethics became a component for CEU's. How about corruption fatigue? We open the newspaper and see our public officials carted off and most are indicted. What is the antidote? Vanilla ethics. You are only as happy as the people around you. Where should it start? It should start with the legislators. We need to be leaders. When Christie was attorney for the State of NJ he said "we are judged by the work we do not by the hot air we spew". Ethicists say that most people are honest. Back in late 2007 American City and Counties said that the public sector falls short. The root cause of misconduct was believed to be that policies and procedures are easily by passed, there was lack of resources, ignorance of job standards, fear of termination and personal gain. Moral rules provide foundation for ethics. Morality cannot be legislated it requires leadership and training. Character is indivisible. These policies and procedures must be followed with NO exceptions. It is a branch of philosophy. It is not arbitrary, it is functional. What is ethical and unethical at work is ethical and unethical at home. You are not ethical if you believe one thing and do another. You are a crook. Susan Jacobucci believes ethics is not a do over option. If you know it is wrong do not do it. If you are not sure ask. What is evidence of dishonesty? To substitute ones own ideas of right and wrong. Inflating an insurance claim. Why are you

doing things you want to hide? When a large minority violates standards begin to crumble. Misconceptions about ethics. I can't make a difference. Believe you can make a difference. Character is what you do when no one is looking. Someone is always watching. If I didn't know it was wrong it must be ok. We must keep our end users in bounds. You have to remain conflict free or remove yourself from the process. Another flimsy as long as I am not receiving personal gain it must be ok. It will only be this time. Very small actions lead to a path that ends in doing time. Don't get caught up in cloudy thoughts. If it happens outside of work it doesn't matter. You are a model for your children, family and friends. End justifies the means. If it saves government money must be ok. Steering to family and friends is wrong. Everyone else does it. The fact other governments are doing it that does not make it right.

**John Donnadio, Executive Director, NJAC**

I am very happy to get out of Trenton. Fiscal year budget is 32.1 billion dollars. This is based on optimistic revenue projections. The biggest fight they will have is using monies for transportation trust fund and income tax proposal. They are looking for a 10 percent income tax cut. Democrats signed on to some of proposal contingent on revenue projections. They are holding 2 million in escrow. Property tax credit for people making under \$250 thousand year. They can take up to a 10 percent property tax credit on income tax. The biggest holdup is the millionaire's tax. Governor has vetoed this in the past. Stay tuned. I left copies on the table about statehouse news. I would like to congratulate Mary Lou for her In County Service Award; for all past service and all her hard work with officials.

They are trying to make NJ the first state to authorize internet gaming in Atlantic City. This is a strongly supportive initiative. Stabilize solar renewable energy certificate market. Strongly support this. SREC market has tanked. Solar developers are threatening to stop. The bill has passed senate. Biggest budget issue is Medicaid reimbursement rates. Thirty seven million dollars was cut last year. We lost on Federal match for a total loss of 75 million dollars. Significant issue for Counties who provide this service. We are a higher education state. 150 million dollars dedicated to county colleges. 50 percent match for counties. Transportation trust fund again has to borrow money for operating expenses; there is a 50 million dollar cut.

We adopted effective ways for counties to operate without having to lay off and eliminate services. All employees must have direct deposit. Significant cost savings. Provide greater access to public meetings and public records. All meetings and subcommittees will require notice and minutes. All records have the index. Must provide written summary for any info that was redacted.

**Dan Kaminski, Manager, Certification Unit, NJ DCA/DLGS**

**QPA update**

Good luck to all who are taking upcoming exam. One in Morris, Mercer and Atlantic Counties. It is a 3 hr exam. Ten o'clock to 12 o'clock. Going to cover information in purchasing courses, finance notices. I went through the whole exam and feel it is a fair exam. Renewal form for QPA will take several weeks. Another Finance Notice to notify when renewal form goes out. There are 105 people registered to take this exam.

**Gordon Ball, Senior Procurement Specialist, NJDCA/DLGS**

I would like to thank John for talking about the SREC's. Fire truck bids. This came up about 8 or 10 years ago. Comptroller's office is getting involved with it. Fire inspection division is supposed to write boiler plate specs for fire trucks. Now the Division of Purchase and Property will write the specs. There are too many different fire trucks to write specs.

I was asked to mention contract with Govdeals; the pilot program to sell items. An issue came up with a town that we are not allowed to use Govedeals to sell vehicles that you acquire through towing. Town requested an extension. You can't bond for cars. Life expectancy is not 5 yrs or more. You are not allowed to bond natural compressed vehicles.

The City of Trenton is looking for a QPA.

**S1355**- soil testing. Any work done that involves removing dirt, you are supposed to have tested to make sure it is not contaminated.

**National Cooperatives**-You have to make sure that the person you are buying from did the contract through a governmental entity. Make sure the contract was advertised by a government entity and not by a not profit or for profit hospital.

**Local Finance Board Amendment. NJAC 5:30-98.398.7**-procurement cards.

Opens up the use of procurement cards. Makes it a lot freer. You have to set up policies and procedures in your governmental entity. Local Finance Notice addressing how we would do that.

**Green Purchasing**-Sustainable NJ, green purchasing course. Kevin Lyon professor at Rutgers is working on this.

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 12, 2012

No old Business

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Networking and lunch were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula S. Ferreira

Secretary