

North Jersey NIGP Chapter # 7

Chartered October 26, 1977

President:

James Jorgenson

Treasurer/Membership:

Jane Marie Foti

Vice President

Cindy Belanger

Secretary:

Paula Ferreira

Minutes

10:00 A.M. Regular Meeting March 27, 2013

The Imperia, Somerset

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Jorgenson.

After flag salute, a moment of silence was observed for the service men and women.

Self-introductions were made.

Minutes & Treasurers reports from last meeting approved.

First Speaker, Kathi Cupano

Still a number of people taking the Purchasing classes.

QPA review had 100 registered. 15- 16 scheduled for the next class which is consistent with the numbers registered for other certifications.

160+ registered for the Purchasing educational Forum.

Second Speaker, Joseph Valenti

Prior negative experience:

Seminar held on Rules & LPCL for Society of Engineers. Joe asked if anyone had used prior negative experience – no one has. Joe said he found it hard to believe that no one had any problems with any of their contracts.

Iran:

MLS had sent out the Iran language which must appear in bid documents. They have had problems with how vendors have been filling it out, so instructions may be pulled and changed. There are two boxes: one which asks if they are providing materials, other if giving money or training. Could company stock money be in this?

J H Reed - one of 4 major contractors cleaning up the bays after Sandy, didn't submit form = contract taken away.

Birdsall: pay to play indictment

Individual contributions from employees were made. Birdsall reimbursed them in pay check so that the "company" didn't put in whole amount that had been reported to ELEC.

Geri stated – most of us have worked with them, we aren't the law and breaking contracts with them could get us sued. Don't get rid of the contracts too soon. Let the law handle.

League Magazine article by Joyce was a rebuttal to an earlier article which had to do with rejecting all bids. The article stated that so no one objects to the low being rejected – reject all. Joyce pointed out why we couldn't just "reject all" as there were only 5 reasons to reject.

With a prepared estimate for a job done before a bid, you must weigh reasonable. Even if it the first two low are rejected for fatal flaws, you can not simply reject the third if his price is “reasonable” Substantial is not defined in the law so what is “substantial” .

State Contract awarded vendors have the right to bid on municipal jobs. MLS interjected with an example of earlier bids, Bidder bid the contract for a municipality at a lower price than the State Contract. It was brought to the State’s attention and the contractor had to offer the same price on the State Contract.

40A11-12 says you may use of any State Contract - State law/rules DPP only those done as a Co-op.

Legislative update:

Over 100 bills have been presented since the last May conference. Information will be sent to Kathi and information will be posted on the website for the forum.

Labor bills are through the roof since Sandy.

Trades not under prevailing wage may soon be.

1.8 billion to rebuild homes, roads and dunes etc. CDBG grants 84 million. Plus WIB grants to hire individuals to work cleanup.

New division in the State was created and includes a director, a deputy director and 4 assistant directors to appoint monitors for projects. FEMA, HUDD, CDBG –

14 Bills Apply to Sandy –

S2584 Sponsors Buono & Greenstein:

Process for awarding contracts during emergencies. When emergencies are declared, request for proposals to be done with proposals to be received 48 hours. Meanwhile city hall floats down the street.

S2646 – schools

Subcontracting agreements - this effects employees.

County wide purchasing system to handle.

S2654 Sponsors Buono & Sarlo

Reciprocal limitations – reciprocal limitations against businesses from states that give in-state preference in awarding public contracts. Vendors from one state can not bid in another

Faxes to vendors on an addendum is a problem. County states in specs that it will be posted online. Bidder companies look for specs and sometimes sell them. The responding vendors may not receive faxed addendums.

Jim Jorgenson requested that everyone take the time to fill out the specifications survey, handed out at the meeting.

Ann Marie State bid to award to the GSA schedule holders. Go to the State to get that contract number assigned to it but know that it may or may not be the best price.

New Business:

Jim Jorgenson spoke of the NNJ-NIGP finances and suggested that the annual dues be raised from \$60 to \$80 per member per year in 2014. A discussion followed. A vote was then done and the increase was approved.

NNJ-NIGP website resource pages have been updated.

News flash forum – anyone may submit info to be posted by Jim.

Time to consider 2014-16 leadership. If you are interested in holding a position, let Jim know. Next meeting will be June 19, 2013.

All guest speakers were thanked. With no more new business, the meeting was adjourned. Networking and lunch followed.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Marie Foti, RPPO
Acting Secretary