

**Northern New Jersey NIGP
Minutes of the Regular Meeting – September 10, 2015
Marcy Richers, Secretary of Chapter 7
The Imperia Conference Center, Somerset New Jersey**

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM by President James Jorgenson. After the flag salute, a moment of silence was observed, new guests were welcomed and self-introductions were made by the attendees.

By motion, the minutes were approved. There was no Treasurer's Report presented. It will be distributed by email.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Brian Gallagher, NJ Division of Purchase and Property Procurement Bureau

There is currently a 5 person team doing outreach for cooperative contracting. Brian believes that cooperative purchasing gives the best value for the dollar. He encouraged the attendees to contact him via email (Brian.Gallagher@treas.nj.gov) if problems are encountered when using state contracts and asked for the emails of the attendees to gain knowledge from them. He explained there was a policy shift 5 years ago encouraging more collaboration in order to enhance state contract usage. The thinking is that in the end, by helping us through this outreach program, the taxpayer will be helped. He provided a handout, which he reviewed, that asks that before you bid something out on the local level, you should review the state purchasing contracts that are available. This can save you time, money and ensure compliance. He discussed the cooperative contracts that are available: State, National (WSCA, NASPO, NJPA, etc.) The state's terms and conditions always override any conditions of the national contracts. Although national coops can be used you must follow the guidelines. It is not perfect, but it gives you options. Brian also talked about NJSTART, a new state of the art e-procurement system, which ultimately will allow locals to put RFP's on-line. He reviewed the NJ Start website and options available, but stated it might not be a replacement for the current State contract website. With regard to state contracts, he said to utilize the method of operation and make the vendor do the work to make the sale. If you encounter problems, email the specialist. As a last resort, you can lodge a formal complaint to the CCAU (Contract Compliance and Administration Unit). See the Division's website for instructions.

Joe Valenti, Government Procurement Consultant, Former DCA Bureau Chief

Joe discussed the changes to the Federal Code of Regulations and how they affect public purchasing. The old 24 CFR has been replaced by the new 2CFR. It was adopted in 2013 to be put into effect in 2014. In 2015, NJ 2CFR should have been used, not just by housing authorities, but by anyone receiving federal money. He advised the attendees to be careful when you receive federal money and to make sure to ask if there are any requirements above and beyond what the LPCL requires. Be aware that a Code of Ethics is required when borrowing Federal Funds. He also discussed a court case (Union County vs. Earle Asphalt) which Earle won the first round and is awaiting a ruling in Appellate Court concerning the requirement that the contractor, Earle, had to maintain an apprenticeship program.

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