

**Northern New Jersey NIGP
Minutes of the Regular Meeting – March 10, 2016
The Imperia Conference Center, Somerset New Jersey**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM by President James Jorgensen. After the flag salute, a moment of silence was observed. New guests were welcomed and self-introductions were made by the attendees.

The Treasurer's Report a/o 3/10/16 was read. Both the report and the previous meeting's minutes were approved by motion.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Kathleen McKenzie Cupano, Assistant Director, Center for Government Services, Rutgers University

Enrollments are up 6% from last year. This doesn't include the 65 people who attended last fall's Green Purchasing Class. Spring course brochures are available. There is a Public School Bidding Class being offered which will be taught by James Shoop.

The summer session schedule should be on-line next week. It will also be mailed out. The annual Purchasing forum will be held at the end of April in Atlantic City. She is looking for volunteers to scan, hand out certificates and to serve as moderators to introduce speakers and handle Q&A sessions.

The President then spoke briefly about this year's forum theme, "Back to Basics", and said it was a good opportunity to earn CEU's.

Dan Kaminski, NJ Department of Community Affairs

Dan is retiring as of June 1st. His successor is Shannon Hudak. Dan spoke about several issues concerning QPA renewals. He has received renewals for attendance at business meetings for various associations for which no credits were approved. He stressed that simply attending this type of meeting doesn't get you credit and asked the attendees to spread the word. He reminded everyone that there is a 6 month grace period for renewal, so actually you have 3 ½ years to renew and to look at LFN's 2012-9 and 2014-17 regarding renewal requirements. 2 CEU's in Green Purchasing are a must and this requirement cannot be waived. Green purchasing courses are offered by NJLOM, Rutgers and Sustainable NJ. Also, if you are going to attend a class that seems relevant to purchasing, for which no CEU's are offered, there is a form available on the DCA website, through which you can apply for the CEU's. He recommends that the form be submitted before the course, rather than after. The form is used for all certifications. CEU's can't be banked from one renewal period to the next. This would defeat the purpose of continuing education. However, if you take a class in a grace period, this can be applied to the next renewal.

Regarding the QPA exam, in December, the passing rate was 50%. The rate for the exam prior to this was 66%. You must get 80% to pass the exam. It is not supposed to be a rubber stamp.

He discussed the Certified County Purchasing Official (CCPO). He stated that it's not the premiere certificate and that there is no reason to get it other than a 5 year vs. 3 year appointment.

Dan advised that you continue obtaining CEU's and keeping up with your QPA certification, even in retirement. You never know when a desirable part-time position may become available. He told the story about a CMFO who let his license lapse and a part time position became available in his town. He had to retake the CMFO exam and did not pass.

Gordon Ball, Division of Local Government Services

March is Purchasing Month. Look at the NIGP website for ways to promote purchasing to keep it out front. The national conference is being held at the Gaylord in Maryland. There are 2 job openings one is in Vineland and the other opportunity is related to the national NIGP and a new national coop.

The passing rate for the CPPO & CPPB through the NIGP is 30%.

He then discussed current legislative bills. There are 40 or 50 out there. Most problematic is A2220 which was introduced last year. It authorizes local units of government to use electronic procurement technologies (i.e. bidding on-line). If the bill passes it can be used for construction bids and selling real estate. Other pending legislation discussed was:

A2629/S641: Contracts for professional services will have to be awarded through a competitive contracting process.

A2250: Eliminates the exception to public advertising and bidding requirements for certain public contracts involving insurance coverage and consulting services.

S1527: Clarifies that only products assembled in the U.S. meet the Buy American standard of public contracting laws.

A1601: Clarifies the law authorizing the application of reciprocal limitations against businesses from states that give in-state preference in the awarding of public contracts.

A3182: Promotes investing in NJ first and requires preference in awarding of contracts for critical infrastructure projects.

A2521/S1196: Concerns "prompt payment" for construction work. Sets it up through a trust account from which it is paid.

A1730: Establishes procedures for design/build contracts. You hire the architect, who then designs & then he goes out and hires the contractor and subs. Many concerns regarding this, state tried it with a project and there were many cost overruns.

A118: Makes the pay to play, prevailing wage, and bid threshold equivalent.

A111: Set aside program for former prisoners.

A2139: Requires the state to follow the usual procurement process, prior to entering into cooperative purchasing agreements.

A2300/S1708: Establishes procedures and standards for public school privatization contracts.

A2640: Requires incorporation of solar panels in design of school buildings.

A2201: Requires local contracting units to purchase hybrid electric vehicles.

A question was raised regarding Local Finance Notice 2012-10 (Using National Cooperative Contracts). Must it be followed or is it just guidance? Gordon stated that if

you don't follow it you will receive no support from DLGS. Basically to use the national coops, you must do everything except write the bids and open them in public. You don't have to give public notice that you are thinking about using the coop. You must do your cost analysis though.

Old Business

Dues: If you didn't get the dues notice, please see the website.

Website: The information on our Resource page will be updated. Please check the website and help the President with posting information. The News Flash is used for current events. Please let him know if you have anything.

New Business

Efforts are underway to get a unified face for the purchasing professionals in the state. We are trying to use one of our scheduled meeting dates for a joint meeting of all associations. This will be a longer program than the usual and won't be in June. The goal is to establish a much needed dialog with the other associations, with our group taking the lead. A motion to move forward with this effort was made and approved.

The President then threw out some thoughts regarding this joint meeting that he asked everyone to just think about for now:

Lunch: Does not want to charge them for it. We do have the funds to do this. Or maybe just charge a minimum cost instead of nothing.

Keynote Speaker: Looking for a program that relates to what we are doing. Would appreciate recommendations for a speaker.

Location: Discussed changing the location, however would prefer to stay at the Imperia & discussed the possibility of streaming it live.

Jim concluded the meeting by stating that he is proud of the group. We are the strongest in terms of pursuing CEU's. He would like statewide recognition as we face many challenges day to day.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Next Meeting Date: June 9, 2016 at 10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Richers