

**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY NIGP
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – September 24, 2019
MAGGIANO’S, BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY**

The meeting was called to order at 10:17A.M. by April Roach, Vice President. There was a flag salute, and self-introductions were made by the attendees. A motion was made to approve both the Treasurers Report and the previous meeting’s minutes which had been posted to the website. The motion was approved. Jane Foti, Treasurer, asked the attendees to clearly print their names on email addresses on the sign in sheets.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Kathleen McKenzie Cupano, Assistant Director, Center for Government Services, Rutgers Continuing Studies

Spring course enrollment was up 12% over last spring. Summer sessions were about even. Fall registrations are up over the prior fall.

Regarding the 2020 Spring Purchasing Forum, a pre-forum, 3- hour Ethics course will be held on April 28th from 3 PM to 6 PM. Civility in Government will be the topic to be covered by the keynote speaker. Among the sessions to be offered are:

- Fraud & Protection in Public Procurement
- Insurance Issues-Part II (a follow-up to last year’s session on this topic which was very popular.)
- Managing a Multi-Generational Work Force
- Public Private Partnerships
- NJ Start
- Electronic Bidding
- Recycling Crisis
- Changed Site Conditions
- Purchasing Jeopardy

Any assistance in putting this together or working at the Forum would be appreciated. There were no questions from the attendees.

The second scheduled speaker, Susan Jacobucci, Esq., CMFO/Administrator from the Borough of Paulsboro, was not able to make the meeting. In her absence, Mary Lou Stanton, stepped in. Among the following topics discussed were:

Proposed Legislation: Responsible Bidder Bill (S-3943) which would require contracting units to award to the “most responsible bidder” as opposed to the “lowest responsive, responsible bidder”. The bill’s sponsor has been doing a complete redraft. She advised the attendees to look on the NJ Legislative website to see if it’s been reposted.

The importance of and the need for the Purchasing Community/Professionals and the various Associations (NJNIGP & GPANJ (north & south), County officials & the NJ League of Municipalities) to stick together to advocate effectively on purchasing issues was discussed. It is important to turn out for meetings, to network and reach out to each

other for help and to keep up with pending legislation. DLGS which used to be a strong resource, does not provide a strong level of support at the present time. She commended the Purchasing Courses that are held through the Center for Government Services at Rutgers as being superior, with integrity behind both the material and the teachers.

Each table was then given the opportunity to bring up an issue for discussion. The new requirement for having an apprenticeship program in order to obtain a Public Works Contractor Registration was brought up. There are concerns that this will result in a lot of small contractors being unable to comply and knock out the non-union contractors. A lot of companies are considering bringing unions in to get their apprenticeships. Mary Lou suggested that elected officials should be contacted regarding this issue.

Also discussed was the NJ Start website and its many weaknesses (hard to navigate, the lack of State Contract notifications, unhelpful Buyers). It was suggested that sending a letter to the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property might be in order to make her aware of these issues.

Concerns regarding the Corporate Ownership Form, and the Recreation contract were also discussed.

Old Business: None

New Business: Nominations for Officers will be held until December's meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 11:26 AM

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Respectfully Submitted, Mary Richers