

Request for Qualifications

Purpose:

The following procedures are designed to provide for a fair and open process in awarding professional services based on qualifications, merit and cost effectiveness through accessible advertising. Services include annual appointments and day-to-day programs, projects and contracts.

Scope of Services: **TAX APPEAL SOLICITOR**

Any persons or firms interested in providing professional services to the Township of Deptford as defined in the New Jersey Statutes, NJSA 40A:11-2(6).

1) Appointment of Solicitor. The Tax Appeal Solicitor shall be appointed by the Council by a majority vote of a quorum of its members and shall serve for a term of one (1) year from the first day of January of the year of appointment and until his successor has been appointed and qualified. The Solicitor shall be an attorney-at-law of New Jersey. In lieu of appointing an individual attorney, Council may appoint a firm of attorneys, all members of which shall be attorneys-at-law of New Jersey. The Solicitor shall be appointed in a manner consistent with the Local Public Contracts Law and shall execute a written contract with the Township and the Tax Appeal Attorney shall receive such compensation as shall be agreed upon by the Township.

2) Duties.

The Tax Appeal Solicitor shall:

A. Represent the Township in all legal matters and shall advise and assist the Council, the Manager and the Departments as required in the administration of Township Government.

B. Attend meetings of the Council, draft ordinances and resolutions as directed by the Manager or the majority of the members of Council, and give opinions and rulings on questions of law which may arise at Council meetings at the request of a majority of the members of Council or the Township Manager.

C. Prepare or approve all legal instruments relating to the business of the Township.

D. Represent the Township in any litigation, and conduct trials, appeals and other proceedings affecting the interest of the Township as he may in his discretion determine to be necessary or desirable, subject to the approval of Council.

3) Additional Duties.

The Tax Appeal Solicitor shall also:

A. Represent the Township in any litigation, appeals or other proceedings affecting the interest of the township in property tax matters as he or she determine to be necessary or desirable subject to the approval of the Council.

B. Maintain records of all action suits, proceedings and matters which relate to the Township's interest, and report thereon as the Manager or Council may require.

C. Have power to enter into any agreement, compromise or settlement of any property tax litigation in which the Township is involved, subject to the prior approval or ratification of the Council.

D. Upon the termination of services with the Township, forthwith surrender to his successor all township property, papers and records, together with written consent to substitution in any pending actions or proceedings.

4) Special Counsel. Whenever he deems that the interests of the Township so require, the Township Solicitor, may recommend to the Township Council the appointment of special counsel with the approval of the Council and within the limits of available appropriations, may appoint special counsel to assist him in the preparation, trial or argument of any issue or in such other capacity as he may determine. If the Tax Appeal Solicitor should be disqualified with respect to any matter or recommend the appointment of special counsel for any reason, the Council may appoint special counsel to represent the Township for and with respect to such matter, within the limits of available appropriations.

5) Residence. The Tax Appeal Solicitor need not be a resident of Deptford Township.

Applicants'/Proposers' Responsibility in Responding to Township's Request For Qualifications

The applicant/proposer shall in response to the Township's RFQ, at a minimum, include the following information:

A. Qualification requirements to compete for the needed service or activity as set forth in the "duties and responsibilities" of the position defined in the Township's RFQ. Qualifications, at a minimum, shall include requirements defined as follows:

1. Full name and business address.
2. Listing of all post high school education of the applicant and/or members

of a professional firm seeking to provide professional services as described within the body of the RFQ.

3. Dates of licensure in the State of New Jersey and any other state as to the professional discipline requested to serve the needs of Deptford Township.

4. A listing of any professional affiliations or membership in any professional societies or organizations, with an indication as to any offices held.

5. The number of licensed professionals employed (if a professional firm) and/or affiliated with the professional entity seeking to provide services to the Township. A description of each individual's qualifications, including education, licensure and years of professional experience.

6. A listing of all previous Public Sector entities served by the applicant/proposer licensed professional including dates of service and position(s) held.

7. Proposed cost of the service(s) or activities, including the hourly rate of individuals who will perform the services or activities. The proposed cost should include:

- a. Attorney meetings.
- b. Site visits and expenses
- c. Expenses for travel, postage and telephone excluded from the hourly rate.
- d. Additional services defined beyond the scope of regular services.

8. **Insurance.** The applicant/proposer, as a member of a profession which is subject to suit for professional malpractice, shall provide documentation that insurance for professional liability/malpractice coverage with limits as to liability acceptable to the Township of Deptford.

9. **Financial Disclosure.** The applicant/proposer as a "professional", if required by law, shall file a Financial Disclosure Statement pursuant to a Local Government Ethics Law NJS 40A:9-22(1) et seq.

10. **Law Against Discrimination and Affirmative Action.** The applicant/proposer as a "professional" shall file a statement as to compliance with NJS 10:5-1 et. Seq.

B. The applicant /proposer shall submit **two (2) copies** of his/her Proposal to the attention of the Township Clerk for review and consideration by the Township Manager and Township Council.

Basis for Award of Contract/Agreement for Professional Services

The Township shall award all professional service contracts or agreements based on qualification, merit and cost competitiveness. Selection criteria will include:

1. Qualifications of the individual or firms who will perform the service or activity.
2. Experience and references.
3. Ability to perform the service or activity in a timely fashion, including staffing and the staff's familiarity of the service or activity.
4. Cost Competitiveness. Min. hourly rate \$125.00 – Max. hourly rate \$150.00
5. The Township reserves the right to conduct an interview or interviews with the prospective professional to discuss the scope of the professional services as outlined in the applicant's/proposer's proposal.
6. All awards or waivers will be by resolution acted on by the Township Council at a Township meeting.
7. For annual appointments, the Township Council, Township Manager and Administrative staff will conduct a performance review a minimum of once per year in late November, early December.
8. All awards are subject to availability of funds.
9. This policy will include, but not be limited to, all of the above listed requirements.

“The Township shall require that all public documents held by outside vendors/professionals be copied and provided to the Township, without charge, if requested by the Township. The vendor/professional shall comply with a request for public documents by the Township within five (5) working days of the request.”