# A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF NORTH BRUNSWICK AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SHAMY, SHIPERS & LONSKI, PC TO SERVE AS CONFLICT TAX APPEAL COUNSEL

**WHEREAS,** the Township of North Brunswick has a need to acquire professional services for Tax Appeal Counsel for calendar year 2022; and

**WHEREAS,** on September 27, 2021, the Township Council approved Resolution 278-9.21, authorizing the solicitation of Requests for Proposals (RFP) for said professional services; and

**WHEREAS**, services were procured in formal manner in accordance with Local Public Contracts Law <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 40A:11-4.1a et seq., under both a fair and open and competitive process to assure that each person and/or firm is provided an equal opportunity to respond to the RFP; and

**WHEREAS**, on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, the Purchasing Agent received, and the Municipal Clerk witnessed, the receipt of four proposals in response to PRO22012; and

WHEREAS, the Evaluation Committee, designated to review proposals and make a recommendation, has completed the review process and included herein their Evaluation Report; and

**WHEREAS**, the Evaluation Committee recommended authorizing a contract with Shain Schaffer PC (150 Morristown Road, Suite 105 Bernardsville, NJ 07924) to serve as lead Tax Appeal Counsel for calendar year 2022; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Evaluation Committee recommends authorizing a contract with firm Shamy, Shipers & Lonski, P.C. (334 Milltown Road East Brunswick, NJ 08816) to serve as Conflict Tax Appeal Counsel for calendar year 2022; and

WHEREAS, proposals have been reviewed and the response submitted by Shamy, Shipers & Lonski, P.C. has been determined to be responsive under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law <u>N.J.S.A</u>. 40A:11-1 et seq. and any provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township of North Brunswick to enter into an agreement with Shamy, Shipers & Lonski, P.C. to serve as Conflict Tax Appeal Counsel for calendar year 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to engaging in services, the Chief Financial Officer shall certify the appropriation of funds from the Tax Assessor's operating budget for services rendered.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2022, that the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick does hereby authorize the Mayor to execute and the Township Clerk to witness an agreement with Shamy, Shipers & Lonski, P.C. to provide services in accordance with RFP PRO22012, to serve as Conflict Tax Appeal Counsel for calendar year 2022.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** notice of this action shall be published in the Home News & Tribune as required by law within 10 (ten) days after its passage.

# CERTIFICATION

I, Cavel Gallimore, Chief Financial Officer, prior to services being rendered shall certify and appropriate funds from the Tax Assessor's operating budget for services rendered. Contract PRO22030.

Cavel Gallimore Chief Financial Officer

Justine Progebin Business Administrator Ronald Gordon, Esq. Township Attorney Approved as to legal form

# **RECORDED VOTE:**

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex, at its meeting held on January 3, 2022.

Lisa Russo Township Clerk



# Evaluation Report <u>Tax Appeal Counsel - Request for Proposal PRO22012</u> <u>December 20, 2021</u>

# Evaluation:

The Township Council passed a resolution authorizing the solicitation of proposals for Tax Appeal Counsel Services in the Finance Department through a competitive contracting process. This process allows for other factors other than price to be taken into consideration in awarding a contract. This process also requires that a committee be established to evaluate proposals in accordance with a "weighted" criterion established prior to solicitation of proposals.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C 5:34-4.3, the Township established a three (3) person committee comprised of the following individuals:

Cavel Gallimore, Chief Financial Officer Alaina Wysocke, Deputy Assessor Joe Maimone, Account Clerk

The committee reviewed and discussed both the Request for Proposal and alternative evaluation criteria on several occasions. The committee agreed to the criteria to be evaluated and the numerical weighting to be assigned to each. The established weighting criterion was as follows:

-Understanding of Service: 30 points
-Prior Experience of Individual/Team on similar projects: 20 points
-Overall Company History with Similar Services: 30 points
-Agreement to Pricing Model: 20 points
-Total: 100 possible points

Competitive contracting proposals were solicited. Four (4) proposals were received by the submission deadline.

The four (4) vendors who submitted were as follows:

Potential Vendors:		
Antonelli Kantor, PC	Shain Schaffer, PC	
354 Eisenhower Pkwy, Ste 1000	150 Morristown Road Ste 105	
Livingston, NJ 07039	Bernardsville, NJ 07924	
Shamy, Shipers & Lonski PC	Rainone Coughlin Minchello	
334 Milltown Road	555 US Highway One South	
East Brunswick NJ 08816	Iselin, NJ 08830	

The committee members all individually reviewed each proposal. The committee then met to discuss the proposals, discussing observations, experience, proposed methodology and other factors. The committee members then individually filled out Committee Evaluation Forms, assigning numerical scores for each criterion.

The Committee highlights the following factors affecting the evaluation and scoring:

Shain Schaffer, PC placed at the top, scoring maximum points in each category. Shamy, Shippers, & Lonski PC came in second, scoring maximum points in Experience & and agreeing to the pricing model. Antonelli Kantor PC and Rainone Coughlin Minchello scored well in Pricing Model and Company History/Experience. However, they came in lowest in Scope of Service and Experience/Qualifications.

When the scoring was added for all vendors, the firms were ranked as follows:

Shain Schaffer, Pc	300
Shamy, Shipers & Lonski PC	297
Rainone Coughlin Minchello	278
Antonelli Kantor PC	272

The proposals submitted by Shain Schaffer, PC and Shamy, Shipper, & Lonski PC ranked the highest when all scores were tabulated. They have demonstrated a better understanding of the needs of North Brunswick Township's properties with their past experiences and knowledge.

Therefore, the committee recommends the award of contract Shain Schaffer, PC lead firm and Shamy, Shipper, & Lonski PC as conflict counsel.

#### **RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS**

Results from the receipt of Requests for Proposals on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 11:00 a.m., Municipal Complex, 710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, N.J.

Present: Samantha Sickles, Purchasing Assistant Lisa Russo, Municipal Clerk

Resolution #278-9.21 was adopted on September 27, 2021 by Township Council authorizing receipt of proposals and advertised in the Home News & Tribune as according to law.

Receipt of proposals is closed.

The following receipt of proposals were received:

PRO22012 – Tax Appeal Counsel	Bond No Bond required	Total
Antonelli Kantor, PC 354 Eisenhower Parkway, Suite 1000 Livingston, NJ 07039	<b>T</b>	Set Fees
Shain Schaffer PC 150 Morristown Road, Suite 105 Bernardsville, NJ 07924		Set Fees
Shamy Shipers & Lonski PC 334 Milltown Road East Brunswick, NJ 08816		Set Fees
Rainone Coughlin Minchello 555 US Highway One South Iselin, NJ 08830		Set Fees

A report will be presented to the Township Council for possible award at the Reorganization Township Council Meeting.

Lisa Russo Municipal Clerk