

Town of Southington
Ordinance Review Committee
Special Meeting Summary Minutes

A Special Meeting of the Ordinance Review Committee was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at 4:00 pm in Council Chambers, Southington Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Chairperson Cheryl Lounsbury.

Committee Members Present:

Chairperson Cheryl Lounsbury, Vice Chairperson Christopher Palmieri, Garry Brumback, Mark Sciota, Bill Palmieri.

Committee Members Excused:

None.

Determination of a Quorum:

All members present quorum confirmed.

Chairperson Lounsbury asked for a motion on the minutes of the February 21, 2017, Special Meeting. Vice Chairperson Palmieri made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017, Special Meeting. Town Manager Garry Brumback seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and the motion passed 5-0.

Review of Preferred Bidder Ordinance:

Chairperson Lounsbury had Deputy Town Manager/Town Attorney Mark Sciota talk about the proposed change in Section 118-13A of the Preferred Bidder Ordinance.

Committee Member Sciota explained the only proposed change was an increase of 5% to 10% for a Town based bidder. The current ordinance language read;

- Any Town-based bidder which has submitted a bid of no more than 5% higher than the low bid, when such bid is between \$10,000 and \$500,000, provided such Town-based bidder agrees to accept the award of the bid in the amount of the low bid. If more than one Town-based bidder has submitted a bid no more than 5% higher than the low bid and has agreed to accept the award of the amount of the low bid, the lowest responsible bidder shall be that one of such Town-based bidders which has submitted the lowest responsible bid.

The **New Proposed Language** would read:

- *Any Town-based bidder which has submitted a bid of no more than 10% higher than the low bid, when such bid is between \$10,000 and \$500,000, provided such Town-based bidder agrees to accept the award of the bid in the amount of the low bid. If more than one Town-based bidder has submitted a bid no more than 10% higher than the low bid and has agreed to accept the award of the amount of the low bid, the lowest responsible bidder shall be that one of such Town-based bidders which has submitted the lowest responsible bid.*

Chairperson Lounsbury then asked for any feedback from the committee, Town Manager Garry Brumback stated he was not in favor of raising the preferred bid ordinance from 5% to 10%. Brumback felt this could have the potential to reduce the pool of qualified contractors and vendors to bid on Town projects or services. Brumback felt the current 5% was proper.

Chairperson Lounsbury then asked for any feedback from people in the audience on the proposed change.

Dawn Miceli, 100 Thunderbird Drive Southington, Connecticut spoke in favor of the proposed change. Dawn explained she had done research looking at other Towns in Connecticut and found the increase from 5% to 10% percent was not unreasonable. Dawn also stated her research showed a basic range of 10-15% for preferred bidding and noted that Torrington, Connecticut was the lowest at 6%.

Dawn felt strongly that this increase would also be beneficial to the Economic Development initiatives within the Town of Southington, from both a taxpayer and business owner perspective. Dawn referenced a letter of support for the increase from the Southington Chamber of Commerce.

Dawn shared that on September 8, 2017, the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee had its regular meeting. During this meeting, a couple of local developers spoke to the group about how the preferred bidder increase would help them with work within the Southington Community.

Matthew O'Keefe of 97 North Main Street also spoke in favor of the preferred bidder increase.

Kathy Rickard of 1317 Mount Vernon Road also spoke in favor of the preferred bidder increase.

Committee Vice Chairperson Palmieri made a motion to move the proposed ordinance change to the Town Council for their action. Chairperson Lounsbury seconded the motion. During the discussion, Sciota advised the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson that the motion before the committee was a policy decision and committee members Brumback, Palmieri and himself would abstain as they did with the Ethics Ordinance.

The motion passed 2-0-3.

Meeting Adjourned 4:15 pm.

Attachments; working copy ordinance, letter from the Chamber of Commerce.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Palmieri
Recording Secretary