

**BOROUGH OF SEASIDE PARK  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL**

**Date Issued: November 1, 2011**

**Return Date & Time: December 1, 2011 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Return To:** Karen Barna, Borough Clerk

Borough of Seaside Park  
1701 North Ocean Avenue  
Seaside Park, NJ 08752

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE POSITION OF  
BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL FOR THE BOROUGH OF SEASIDE PARK**

The Borough of Seaside Park is soliciting proposals for the position of Borough Bond Counsel to provide professional services to the Borough on all legal matters relative to bonding for the Borough. The Mayor and Council will select one or more New Jersey State licensed attorneys for the provision of these services based upon a fair and open process, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et. seq. and in accordance with the Resolution previously adopted by the Mayor and Council to secure such services through a fair and open process. In order to have a proposal considered by the Mayor and Council, an interested party must provide evidence that he/she satisfies the minimum requirements, as set forth in Section III of this document and that he/she otherwise complies with the proposal requirements set forth.

**SECTION I: Appointment of Borough Bond Counsel**

One attorney shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of Council to serve as the Borough Bond Counsel, and other attorneys or law firms may be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of Council, for a term of one (1) year, to perform services for the Borough of Seaside Park including but not limited to those services as described in Section II of this document.

The Mayor and Council may select, at its sole discretion, individuals or firms for this position, so long as those individuals or firms meet or exceed the minimum requirements set forth in Section III hereof. Once an appointment is made, no substitution of personnel may be made without the express written consent of the Mayor and Council, which consent may be withheld in their sole discretion.

The Borough Bond Counsel (and other attorneys, if any) shall perform the following minimum duties as well as those prescribed by applicable law, subject to the review and approval of the Mayor and Council:

- A. Analyze all municipal short and long term indebtedness.

- B. Determine most advantageous time to convert short term into long term indebtedness.
- C. Prepare ordinances; notices; and all other documentation necessary for incurring new debt.
- D. Prepare reports and provide advice and counsel to the Mayor and Council regarding bonding that include but are not limited to: litigation, regulations, legislation and ordinances;
- E. Interact with the Borough's Administration on related legal issues;
- F. Attend meetings as requested by the Mayor and Council.

**SECTION III: Minimum Qualifications and Response Requirements**

In order for an individual's or firm's proposal to be considered by the Mayor and Council, interested parties submitting proposals in response to this solicitation must meet the following:

A. Minimum Qualifications:

1. The individual has served in the role of Municipal Bond Counsel for a municipal entity or government entity in the State of New Jersey for a period of at least seven (7) years prior to the submission of this proposal;
2. That the attorney or law firm has sufficient staff to satisfy the scope of services described in Section II of this document;
3. That the attorney who is submitting the response to this proposal, is licensed and in good standing with the Bar Association of the State of New Jersey;
4. That the attorney has at least seven (7) years experience in the litigation of municipal matters;
5. The attorney or firm submitting the response to this proposal carries professional liability insurance in an amount of at least \$1,000,000.00 with a carrier that has AAA rating by Best Insurance Digest;

6. That the attorney or law firm submitting this proposal has not represented within the past three years and does not represent any adverse parties and claims whether administrative, civil, criminal, or otherwise, against the Borough of Seaside Park.

B. Minimum Requirements for Vendor Responses:

1. Interested parties wishing to provide a proposal in response to the Borough of Seaside Park's solicitation shall provide the following minimum information in its proposal, which proposal must be submitted at the location and within the time constraint set forth on page 1 of this document.
2. Full name and business address of entity or person submitting the proposal;
3. List of all individuals who, if selected, will provide services to the Borough of Seaside Park, along with a summary of the post high school education and licenses held by each such person;
4. Number of years each attorney in the law firm submitting this proposal has provided representation to municipal entities in the State of New Jersey;
5. A description of the services that will be provided to the Borough of Seaside Park, in addition to those set forth in Section II above;
6. A copy or description of the professional liability insurance policy maintained by the attorney or law firm for the calendar year 2011;
7. A statement and listing of professional service fees that the attorney or law firm would offer to the Borough of Seaside Park, if the attorney or law firm were selected to be the attorney for the Borough of Seaside Park;
8. A statement that applicant complies with the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1, *et. seq.*, and the Affirmative Action Law of the State of New Jersey, P.L. 1975 C. 127; N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 *et seq.* and N.J.A.C. 17:27 and of P.L. 1963, c. 150 (Prevailing Wage) and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101, *et seq.*); and N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 *et seq.* (Pay to Play).

9. The name and addresses of at least three (3) references consisting of clients for which the applicant has provided services in the past five (5) years, which should include at least one (1) municipal entity client;
10. A list and description of all professional liability claims, if any, brought against the applicant during the past five (5) years; and
11. The applicant shall provide the Borough of Seaside Park with ten (10) copies of its proposal.

**SECTION IV: Basis of Award of Professional Services Contract**

The Borough of Seaside Park shall award all professional service agreements based upon qualifications, merit, cost competitiveness, references and experience with issues confronting the Borough of Seaside Park. The final determination will be based upon the most advantageous price and other factors to the Borough of Seaside Park. The specific basis of award will include:

- A. Documented evidence that the firm fulfills all of the Minimum Qualifications as listed in Section III, paragraph A., and all of the information required under paragraph B., including, but not limited to, insurance policy, Affirmative Action Compliance and professional service fees, are provided for review and consideration. Number your responses using the sequential order listed in paragraphs A and B of Section III.

B. Technical Criteria:

1. Does the proposal demonstrate a clear understanding of the scope of work and related objectives?
2. Does the proposal document knowledge of the issues and operations of the Borough of Seaside Park, and how the proposed services will address these issues?
3. Is the proposal complete and responsive to the specific requirements?
4. Has successful past performance of the firm and its principals been documented?

C. Management Criteria:

1. How well does the proposed scheduling timelines meet the borough's needs?

2. Does the firm document a record of reliability of timely delivery of deliverables?
3. Does the firm document municipal/State experience?
4. Does the firm document its availability to attend meetings as requested by the Mayor and Council?
5. To what extent does the firm rely on in-house resources vs. contracted services?
6. Is there the availability of in-house and contract resources documented?
7. Documentation of experience in performing similar work by employees?
8. Does the vendor make use of business capabilities or initiatives that involve women, the disadvantaged, small and/or minority owned business establishments?
9. Does the vendor demonstrate cultural sensitivity in hiring and training staff?

D. Cost Criteria:

1. Relative Cost – How does the cost compare to other similarly scored proposals?
2. Full Explanation – Is the price and its component charges, fees, etc., adequately explained and documented?
3. Does the proposal include quality control and assurance programs?
4. Does the firm have the sufficient financial resources to meet its obligations?

All awards are and shall be subject to the availability of funds for the professional services in the 2012 Temporary and/or Final Budgets.