

**MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP
BURLINGTON COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING
November 21, 2011
5:00 pm**

A special meeting of the Mansfield Township Committee was held on the above shown date with the following in attendance: **Mayor Arthur R. Puglia, Committeeman Alfred W. Clark, Committeeman Sean Gable, Committeewoman Janice A. DiGiuseppe, Deputy Mayor Robert J. Higgins (arrived at 5:05:36 pm) Attorney Michael Magee, and Municipal Clerk Linda Semus.**

Mayor Puglia called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM followed by the following opening statement, Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:

“Adequate Notice” has been provided for this Special Meeting and has been posted on the Official Bulletin Board of the Township of Mansfield, noticed to the Burlington County Times on November 18, 2011 and filed with the Municipal Clerk of the Township of Mansfield, notice of which contained the date, time, place, and purpose of this meeting stating that formal action may be taken on any and all subjects involving Mansfield Township, as so noted in NJSA 10:4.-8(d), Amended 1981, by including Section 10:4-18 which addresses Regular Meeting of a Public Body, which is addressed under “Annual Notice”.

DISCUSSION:

No Committee comments.

RESOLUTION:

CFO Monzo asked to say a few words:

He explained that the first time we went out for bids we had received no bids so we went out for bids again and received one bid which was deemed to be non-responsive and took several exceptions to the bid we put out and enough exception for what we consider a non-responsive bid. We are here today to reject that bid, and because it is non-responsive and because of the Local Public Contract Law, if you have two bids with same specifications for the same project and received no bids or non-responsive bids you are then authorized to negotiate with contractors/vendors who has the services to do our snow plow removal.

RESOLUTION 2011-11-12

RESOLUTION REJECTING BID FOR THE 2011-2012 SNOWPLOWING AND REMOVAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2011, the Township accepted bids for 2011-2012 Snowplowing and Removal Services; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer, and Qualified Purchasing Agent has recommended that the only bid received be rejected as being non-responsive with the bid specifications for the following reasons:

- **bidder does not have equipment to accommodate a 10 to 12 ft plow
- **bidder does not have equipment larger than 2.5 cubic yards for salting
- **bidder does not have facilities to store the Township’s salt
- **bidder did not provide a certificate of insurance

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that it is in the best interest of the Township to reject all bids; and

WHEREAS this is the second bid for snowplowing and snow removal services for which there were no responsive bidders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 21st day of November, 2011, by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The bid received shall be and is hereby rejected pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2.
2. The Township Certified Financial Officer/Qualified Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to negotiate with any and all vendors for snow plowing services.

A motion was offered by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** and second by **Committeeman Clark** to adopt Resolution 2011-11-12. Motion carried on a Roll Call Vote, recorded as follows:

MOTION: DiGiuseppe SECOND: Clark
AYES: DiGiuseppe, Clark, Gable, Puglia
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Higgins

Mayor Puglia requested that we have discussion as he would like to inform the Committee of things that he and Committeeman Clark has done.

Deputy Mayor Higgins arrives.

Mayor Puglia advised that he had conversation with local vendors asking them to put in bids. He was informed that they did not want to get involved because of the Lippincotts. It seems that they are trying to blackball the Township somehow. **Mr. Monzo** had gotten the same impression from the Lippincotts himself and **Committeeman Clark** stated that he had spoken with the D'Imperios and Woolstons. They told Committeeman Clark they would rather stay out of this conflict with the Lippincotts. It was suggest that we contact Winzingers but due to prior issues/history with Winzingers, he didn't feel we should contact them. **Mr. Monzo** asked the Committee whether the Lippincotts would negotiate with us rather than formally bidding? **Committeeman Clark** stated he had spoken to them, just about two hours ago, and they would rather not get involved at all.

Mr. Monzo stated he will contact Joe Lippincott tomorrow and see if they still are uninterested in bidding. If not, try to ascertain why they will not bid and then make some kind of arrangement to remove our salt from their yard.

Mr. Magee stated that the only change, to the bid specs, were that we added GPS systems in each vehicle, which was at the expense solely of the Township, and there were no set-up fees this year. **Mayor Puglia** stated that the State has GPS systems in each of the trucks that work for them. It is not something we are doing alone.

Mr. Monzo stated that he did not believe we had enough man power or equipment to be able to do this ourselves. The Committee agreed with Mr. Monzo. **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** asked if Mr. Monzo had any feelings on why the Lippincotts did not bid. He stated that Mr. Jones believed it to be the GPS. **Committeeman DiGiuseppe** asked Mr. Monzo to ask what the main objective was that they (the Lippincotts) did not bid. **Mayor Puglia** stated that the State calls in their vendors a few hours earlier, they sit and wait for instructions to begin. The rate is less than the actual hourly rate given once plowing/salting begins. If Mr. Lippincott would like to negotiate something like that, maybe there could be something that could be worked out. **Mayor Puglia** felt he did not want to be held hostage by the Lippincotts and he felt confident that we will be able to negotiate with some other vendor. Mr. Monzo agreed with the Mayor. Mr. Monzo will contact other communities as well to see who they use for this service. Several names of vendors were mentioned and Mr. Monzo will contact them all.

Mayor Puglia advised that he had spoken to several farmers who have spreaders that in a pinch would be able to help with salt if we ran into a bind.

Mr. Monzo advised the Committee that he, while down at the League of Municipalities, did in fact confirm that non-responsive bids are considered a no bid which allows us to negotiate.

Clerk Semus asked if the vendors, we will be negotiating with, have facilities for salt storage and if not, what will we do? **Mayor Puglia** stated that they are working on that as well. **Mr. Monzo** stated that if need be, we can figure out something to do over at the Millennium Building. They believed there is maybe about 80 tons of salt still left over at the Lippincotts. **Mr. Monzo** also advised that the rates for salt have come down this year. **Ms. DiGiuseppe** asked if there will be an area for salt at the Millennium Building once all construction is completed. **Mr. Monzo** and **Mayor Puglia** said no. This was never a consideration to store salt at the Millennium Building. **Mayor Puglia** responded by saying that it was always a thought that the Lippincotts (as town residents) would always be our snow removal company and would always store our supply of salt.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Puglia opens the meeting for public comment. Seeing none, Mayor Puglia closes public comment.

MAYOR AND COMMITTEE COMMENT

Deputy Mayor Higgins stated he was having a hard time hearing and wanted clarification as to what **Mr. Monzo** was going to do with negotiations and also wanted to be sure that we are not throwing our Public Works Superintendent under the ground. **Mr. Monzo** was very clear that he would not allow that to happen. **Deputy Mayor Higgins** wanted to be sure we were all on the same page. **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** interrupted by stating that she believed **Mr. Higgins'** concern was that whomever we negotiate with, that **Mr. Jones** has to concur with.

Motion was offered by **Committeeman Clark** and second by **Committeewoman DiGiuseppe** to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: December 14, 2011