

## PROPOSED PURCHASING PROCEDURE

### **Purchasing Guidelines**

All purchases for the Town of Brooklyn shall be made in accordance with the Town Code and in concert with the annually adopted budget. The use of Purchase Orders for goods and/or services in excess of \$1,000 is strictly enforced (with certain emergency situations and prior approval). Purchase orders should be generated for the purpose of encumbering departmental regularly occurring expenditures for the approved budget in the current Fiscal Year by the end of June in that budget year.

**Commented [MC1]:** Perhaps change to: "Purchase Orders shall be used for all purchases ...".

**Commented [MC2]:** Perhaps add, "such as (give examples) excepted."

The purpose of encumbering known pending expenses is for proper accounting practices and for accurate report generation, fund level tracking, and general ledger maintenance. When spontaneous or urgent expenses are incurred, a Purchase Order for already expended funds is not required but this should be the exception and not the rule. A Purchase Order is expected when the pending expense is known within a (30) day window.

**Commented [MC3]:** This is not clear to me.

Blanket annual purchase orders not to exceed \$10,000 may be issued for local vendors for miscellaneous purchases not to exceed \$1,000 at any one time.

**Commented [MC4]:** This too is unclear to me.

### **Purchasing Procedure**

Purchases for the Town of Brooklyn shall be made under the following rules:

#### **Purchases under \$2,500**

Purchases for items or services with a value in excess of \$1,000 and less than \$2,500 must have documented verbal quotes or written quotes, whenever possible, from at least three vendors. Items with a value of \$1,000 or less are exempt from this process.

**Commented [MC5]:** What would be a "documented verbal quote"?

#### **Purchases between \$2,500 and \$10,000**

Purchases for items or services between \$2,500 and \$10,000 shall require the department head to solicit at least three quotes and to provide the three quotes together with the name and telephone number of each person who supplied a quote to the First Selectman for his approval. If the item is such that three quotes are unobtainable, that fact shall be documented to the First Selectman in writing, and the First Selectman shall sign a written waiver of the requirement of three quotes.

## Purchases in excess of \$10,000

- A. Any item or service purchased by the Town of Brooklyn costing in excess of \$10,000 shall be subject to a formal bid procedure. All bids shall be in writing and shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the First Selectman's office at a date and time specified in the invitation to bid. All such bids shall be published at least once at least ten days before the due date in either a newspaper or other publication, delivered generally to the residents of Brooklyn. All such sealed bids shall be opened at the designated location and formally awarded to the lowest responsible qualified bidder based upon:
- Price
  - Recommendation of the department head
  - Compliance with bid requirements and specifications
  - Ability of the vendor to provide services, if applicable
  - Vendors' references, if applicable
- B. The Town of Brooklyn reserves the right to waive any informality with any bid and if all the bids exceed the amount in the opinion of the Board of Selectmen readily available for the specific project, the Town reserves the right to enter into negotiation with the low bidder to modify the specifications.
- C. The Selectmen have the right to determine which bid is in the best interest of the Town. The low bidder is not guaranteed the bid.

## Exceptions

The following shall be exempt from the bidding ordinance:

- The purchase of any item certified by the department head as an emergency purchase and countersigned by the First Selectman. Any such waiver shall be immediately reported to the Board of Selectmen and shall, in a formal report to the Board of Selectmen, be made at the next Selectmen's meeting indicating the nature of the emergency and the basis for the award.
- All professional services: formal bidding procedures shall not be required for the award of standard professional services such as architects, engineers, legal counsel, professional

**Commented [MC6]:** Should this say requests for bids"?

**Commented [MC7]:** Wouldn't you want to have the ads in a publication that has readers outside Brooklyn? Perhaps also add that the Town will post notices of all requests for bids on its website 10 or more days before the due date.

**Commented [MC8]:** Perhaps add "at least the following."

**Commented [MC9]:** Perhaps add "written recommendation" and require the recommendation to give reasons.

**Commented [MC10]:** Perhaps: "The BOS shall select the successful bid and award the contract based on its determination of ..." and say that the "BOS and the Town may reject any and all bids and are not required to award the contract to the lowest bidder."

**Commented [MC11]:**

**Commented [MC12]:** Add: "and these Procedures."

**Commented [MC13]:** Perhaps add "in writing, before the purchase if reasonably possible, but if not, no later than the next BOS meeting, whether regular or special..."

**Commented [MC14]:** I do not know what this word means here. Perhaps start the section: "Unless required by federal, state or local law, including by the terms of a grant, the Town may but need not require the submission of bids for ...."

consultants in the areas of personnel, insurance and the like, although the Town should use an RFP process in appropriate circumstances.

**Commented [MC15]:** Should give an example.

C. Any item covered by an existing state or regional bid such as those obtained by the State of Connecticut or the Council of Governments. Any time an existing bid is used for a Town project, the department head or other individual responsible for the specific project shall certify in writing to the Board of Selectmen that he/she has reviewed other relevant options and in his/her opinion the acceptance of the existing bid is in the best interest of the Town of Brooklyn.

**Commented [MC16]:** Make clear this is NECCOG, if that is the intent.

D. Exemption by board or commission: Whereas, the Board of Education, the Brooklyn WPCA, and the Brooklyn Housing Authority have traditionally awarded their own bids independently of the Board of Selectmen, upon certification by the respective agencies that they have the ability to implement this article internally and for reasons of efficiency feel that their specific boards should award their respective bids, the Board of Selectmen shall exempt such board or commission from the provisions of the article that requires action by the Board of Selectmen, and their respective agencies shall implement the article pursuant to their own bylaws' rules of procedure.

**Commented [MC17]:** I do not think the BOS has the authority to require BOE, WPCA and perhaps HA to make these certifications.

#### Annual bids

The Selectmen shall yearly, by July 30, obtain quotes of hourly rates for equipment and labor from contractors desiring to do business with the Town of Brooklyn. Each such hourly rate schedule shall be binding upon the submitting contractor for one fiscal year or until notified by the contractor that the quotation is no longer valid.