

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-002

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING CHRISTOPHER DASTI, ESQUIRE OF DASTI & STAIGER AS CONFLICT TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, there exists a need for Legal Services as Conflict Township Attorney for the Township of Little Egg Harbor; and

WHEREAS, although the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., authorizes the award of contracts for “Professional Services” without competitive bids, the Township issued a request for proposals for professional service contracts in accordance with the competitive negotiation procedure as delineated within Section 40-8 of the Township Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, entitled “Fair and Open process utilized to award contracts with anticipated value in excess of \$17,500”; and

WHEREAS, a determination of value has been made by the Township that said contract shall be a value in excess of \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, said competitive negotiation procedure satisfies the requirements of a fair and open process under N.J.S.A. 19:44A:20.2 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, all proposals were to be submitted to the Office of the Township Clerk by November 27, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has reviewed the proposals submitted and recommends Christopher Dasti, Esquire, of Dasti & Staiger; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Dasti, Esquire is duly qualified to serve as Conflict Township Attorney; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Township Committee to appoint Christopher Dasti, Esquire of Dasti & Staiger, as Conflict Township Attorney for the Township of Little Egg Harbor; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the contract to be awarded under this resolution is determined not to exceed \$25,000 which sum is reasonably estimated based upon such legal services may be required over the contract term to be awarded under this resolution, including, but not limited to, the amount spent for such legal services from the previous calendar year, the costs of compensation under the contract to be awarded, and any projected increase or decrease in services anticipated versus the prior year, and which sum the Township of Little Egg Harbor is under no obligation to spend and which may be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are funds available for this contract, which certification is annexed hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., authorizes the award of contracts for “Professional Services” and requires that the resolution and contract be made available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. That Christopher Dasti, Esquire of Dasti & Staiger, is hereby appointed as Conflict Township Attorney for the Township of Little Egg Harbor for a term of one year, commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025 and shall be compensated at the rate of \$160 per hour.

2. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and the Township Clerk to attest to the attached agreement with Christopher Dasti, Esquire, of Dasti & Staiger.

3. That this contract is awarded as a “Professional Service” in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i) of the Local Public Contracts Law because it is for services to be performed by a person(s) authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.

4. That a notice of this action shall be printed once in the official newspaper of the Township of Little Egg Harbor.

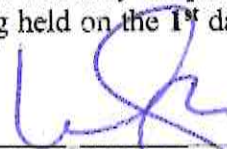
5. That this resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

6. That the agreement shall be an open ended contract with funds being encumbered contingent upon the availability of funds in the budget year. No services shall be rendered under the contract until the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds for such services.

7. That a certified copy of this resolution, together with a copy of the contract between the parties, shall be provided by the Township Clerk to the Chief Financial Officer, and to Christopher Dasti, Esquire of Dasti & Staiger.

CERTIFICATION

I, **KELLY LETTERA, CMC, RMC**, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Little Egg Harbor do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township of Little Egg Harbor Township Committee at a meeting held on the 1st day of **January, 2025**.



KELLY LETTERA, CMC, RMC
Township Clerk
Little Egg Harbor Township

CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

I, **RODNEY HAINES**, Chief Financial Officer for the Township of Little Egg Harbor, do hereby certify that adequate funds are available for an open-ended contract with the Christopher Dasti, Esquire, of Dasti & Staiger as Conflict Township Attorney.

The amount of the contract to be awarded under this resolution is determined not to exceed \$25,000 which sum is based upon a reasonable estimate of the legal services required over the contract term. The Township of Little Egg Harbor is not obligated to spend this amount and is permitted to exceed this amount during the course of performance of this contract.

The funds which area available for this open-ended contract are found in the following line item appropriation(s): 01-20-712



RODNEY HAINES, Chief Financial Officer
Township of Little Egg Harbor

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT made this 1st day of **January, 2025**,

BETWEEN: **TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR**, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, having its principal offices located at 665 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey 08087 (hereinafter referred to as “Township”);

AND: **CHRISTOPHER DASTI, ESQUIRE, OF DASTI & STAIGER**, having its principal place of business located at 310 Lacey Road, P.O. Box 779, Forked River, New Jersey 08731, hereinafter referred to as “Conflict Township Attorney.”

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, there exists a need for Legal Services as Attorney for the Township of Little Egg Harbor; and

WHEREAS, although the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*, authorizes the award of contracts for “Professional Services” without competitive bids, the Township issued a request for proposals for professional service contracts in accordance with the competitive negotiation procedure as delineated within Section 40-8 of the Township Code of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, entitled “Fair and open process utilized to award contracts with anticipated value in excess of \$17,500”; and

WHEREAS, a determination of value has been made by the Township that said contract shall be a value in excess of \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, said competitive negotiation procedure satisfies the requirements of a fair and open process under N.J.S.A. 19:44A:20.2 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, all proposals were to be submitted to the Office of the Township Clerk by November 27, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has reviewed the proposals submitted and recommends Christopher Dasti, Esquire, of Dasti & Staiger; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Dasti, Esquire, is duly qualified to serve as Conflict Township Attorney; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Township Council to appoint Christopher Dasti, Esquire, of Dasti & Staiger, as Conflict Township Attorney for the Township of Little Egg Harbor; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the contract to be awarded under this resolution is determined not to exceed \$25,000 which sum is reasonably estimated based upon such legal services s may be required over the contract term to be awarded under this resolution, including, but not limited to, the amount spent for such legal services from the previous calendar year, the costs of compensation under the contract to be awarded, and any projected increase or decrease in services anticipated versus the prior year, and which sum the Township of Little Egg Harbor is under no obligation to spend and which may be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., authorizes the award of contracts for “Professional Services” and requires that the resolution and contract be made available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to law, the parties hereto wish to enter into an agreement for Professional Legal Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereunder do agree as follows:

1. That Christopher Dasti, Esquire, of Dasti & Staiger, is hereby appointed as Conflict Township Attorney for the Township of Little Egg Harbor, for a term of one year, commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025. The Conflict Township Attorney shall be compensated at the rate of One Hundred Sixty (\$160.00) Dollars per hour for services rendered to the Township for the calendar year.

2. The total amount charged by Conflict Township Attorney shall not exceed the amount appropriated in the municipal budget for the year 2025. The Agreement shall be an open-ended contract with funds being encumbered contingent upon the availability of funds in the budget year. The Chief Financial Officer certified the following is the line item appropriation(s) which constitute the availability of fund for this contract: 01-20-712.

3. The Conflict Township Attorney shall perform all normal legal services as determined and authorized by the Mayor or other authorized official of the Township in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

4. The parties to this contract agree to incorporate into this contract the mandatory language of subsection 3.4(a) of the Regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Conflict Township Attorney or subcontractor agrees to comply fully with the terms, provisions, and obligations of said subsection 3.4(a).

5. The parties to this contract agree to incorporate into this contract the mandatory language of section 3.6 of the Regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Conflict Township Attorney or subcontractor agrees to comply fully with the terms, provisions, and obligations of said section 3.6.

6. The Conflict Township Attorney shall execute the Affirmative Action Agreement, Exhibit A attached hereto, which shall be incorporated herein by reference.

7. The Conflict Township Attorney shall submit a copy of the Certificate of Employee Information Report, or a copy of letter of Federal approval, or Form AA-302 (Initial Employee Information Report) prior to execution of this Agreement.

8. The Conflict Township Attorney shall provide written notice to its subcontractors of the responsibility to submit proof of business registration to the Conflict Township Attorney.

9. Before final payment on the contract is made by the Township, the Conflict Township Attorney shall submit an accurate list and the proof of business registration of each subcontractor or supplier used in the fulfillment of the contract, or shall attest that no subcontractors were used.

10. For the term of the contract, Conflict Township Attorney and each of its affiliates and a subcontractor and each of its affiliates [N.J.S.A. 52:32-44(g)(3)] shall collect and remit to the Director, New Jersey Division of Taxation, the use tax due pursuant to the Sales and Use Tax Act on all sales of tangible personal property delivered into this State, regardless of whether the tangible personal property is intended for a contract with a contracting agency.

11. A business organization that fails to provide a copy of a business registration as required pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2001, c.134 (C.52:32-44 *et. al.*) or subsection e. or f. of section 92 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-92), or that provides false business registration information under the requirements of either of those sections, shall be liable for a penalty of \$25 for each day of violation, not to exceed \$50,000 for each business registration copy not properly provided under a contract with a contracting agency.

12. The Township and the Conflict Township Attorney for themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, hereby agree to the full performance of the covenants herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed the day and year first above written.

WITNESS AND ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR

KELLY LETTERA, CMC, RMC
Township Clerk
(Seal)

By _____
DANIEL MAXWELL, MAYOR

DASTI & STAIGER

As to Christopher Dasti, Esquire

By _____
CHRISTOPHER DASTI, ESQUIRE

DASTI & STAIGER

Christopher J. Dasti
Lauren R. Staiger

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

310 Lacey Road | P.O. Box 779
Forked River, NJ 08731

O: 609-549-8990
F: 609-549-5043

DastiLaw.com

Jeffrey D. Cheney
Brigit P. Zahler*
Christopher A. Khatami
William J. Oxley
Damian B. Majewski
Brandon E. DeJesus

*Also admitted in NY

October 25, 2024

Kelly Lettera, CMC, RMC, Township Clerk
Township of Little Egg Harbor
665 Radio Road
Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087

Re: 2025 Professional Service Contract - Conflict Township Attorney

Dear Ms. Lettera:

Please accept this letter and accompanying documents in support of our request to be considered for the position of Conflict Attorney for the Township for 2025. If we are appointed, I will be the primary contact person for all issues relating to the Township. My partner Lauren R. Staiger and my associate Jeffrey D. Cheney would assist in our representation of the Township.

Our firm is devoted to the representation of governmental entities. Personally, I have dedicated my career to representing public entities. Our firm currently serves as Municipal Attorney for Barnegat Township, Ocean Township (Waretown), the Borough of South Toms River, Berkeley Township, Stafford Township, and Manchester Township. We also serve as Special Counsel and/or Labor Counsel for countless other municipalities throughout Ocean, Monmouth, Burlington, Essex, Gloucester, Middlesex, Essex, and Atlantic Counties. As you will see from our list of representative clients, our firm has in the past, and currently represents numerous public entities throughout the state.

In our representation of public entities, we handle the legal issues that public entities face in their day to day operations as well as representing the public entities in litigation. I have successfully litigated cases on behalf of the public entities in the Superior Court of New Jersey, trial and appellate levels, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, as well as in the Tax Court of New Jersey and administrative tribunals throughout the state.

Since the founding of the firm approximately six years ago, we have doubled in size and continue to grow. Our growth is a direct result of our tenacious and successful legal representation of public entities. We look forward to continuing to grow and expand our representation of public entities.

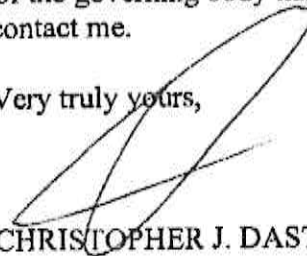
Kelly Lettera, CMC, RMC, Township Clerk
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Conflict Township Attorney
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Our firm was privileged to serve as Conflict Attorney for Little Egg Harbor over the past three years and would be honored to continue to serve the Township in 2025. The firm has adequate staff to meet the needs of the Township and provide legal services in a competent, efficient, and timely manner. We pride ourselves on a tenacious work ethic and putting the needs of our clients first. We propose an hourly rate of \$160.00 plus out of pocket disbursements. Unlike other firms, our firm does not charge for secretarial time.

There are no known potential conflicts of interest that may result in my firm or myself becoming disqualified from representing the Township.

In the event you or any member of the governing body has any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



CHRISTOPHER J. DASTI

CJD:ll

EXHIBIT A

MANDATORY EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY LANGUAGE N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., N.J.A.C. 17:27

GOODS, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND GENERAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Except with respect to affectional orientation or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, the contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to make good faith efforts to employ minority and women workers consistent with the applicable county employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2, or a binding determination of the applicable county employment goals determined by the Division pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing its appropriate recruitment agencies including, but not limited to, employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable federal law and applicable federal court decisions.

In conforming with the applicable employment goals, the contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable federal law and applicable federal court decisions.

The contractor shall submit to the public agency, after notification of award but prior to execution of a goods and services contract, one of the following three documents:

Letter of Federal Affirmative Action Plan Approval
Certificate of Employee Information Report
Employee Information Report Form AA302

The contractor and its subcontractors shall furnish such reports or other documents to the Division of Contract Compliance & EEO as may be requested by the Division from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Division of Contract Compliance & EEO for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to Subchapter 10 of the Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 17:27.

Company _____
Signature _____
Title _____
Date _____