

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Township has been involved in certain Affordable Housing Litigation captioned In the Matter of the Township of West Orange, Docket No. ESX-L-4697-15 which has been pending before the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Essex County for over four (4) years; and

WHEREAS, that in the Affordable Housing Litigation, Beth McManus has been designated Special Master and Ms. McManus has been attempting to amicably resolve various issues; and

WHEREAS, West Essex Highlands, Inc. has intervened in the Affordable Housing Litigation and has asserted that its tract of approximately 120 acres of vacant land is available to meet regional and local residential needs for affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, after numerous settlement discussions and negotiations, including involvement by the Highlands Condominium Association through its president and counsel, a tentative settlement is in the midst of being finalized; and

WHEREAS, the settlement will provide for a substantial housing development which will have an impact on the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township is concerned regarding the development process and especially the removal of trees and drainage issues; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to ensure that the nearby residents are fully informed as to all aspects of development including staging, blasting, tree removal and related aspects of construction; and

WHEREAS, Wayne DeFeo currently serves as Environmental Compliance Officer and is a former member of the Board of Public Utilities and teaches at Rutgers University in the areas of recycling and environmental compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires that this potential project be as “Green” and environmentally sensitive as possible; and

WHEREAS, Amy Greene has previously studied the site and prepared certain reports on behalf of WE CARE, a coalition of residents from the Highlands Condominiums; and

WHEREAS, this award is for a professional services contract and due its timing and exigencies not awarded in accordance with the Fair and Open Processes set forth in the New Jersey Statutes Annotated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of West Orange that Mayor Parisi is hereby authorized to enter into the annexed Professional Services Contract and the Municipal Clerk is authorized to attest to Mayor Parisi’s signature with Wayne DeFeo Associates in order to assist in the initial phase of reviewing and analyzing the project so that any potential settlement will incorporate as many environmental protections as possible to ensure that the project is developed in an environmentally sensitive and comprehensive manner not to exceed \$33,500; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Award shall be available in the Municipal Clerk’s office and advertised in accordance with applicable law.

Karen J. Carnevale, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk

Jerry Guarino
Council President

Adopted: October 29, 2019