

**WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP**  
**BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1280**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WARMINSTER,  
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING  
RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTOR PROVISIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of Warminster Township desires to adopt certain provisions to ensure that contractors and subcontractors that perform work valued at over One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) on any public facility or public works project meet certain minimum requirements to insure that they have the capacity, expertise, personnel and other qualifications and resources necessary to successfully perform public contracts in a timely, reliable and cost-effective manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that such provisions shall serve the best interests of the citizens of Warminster Township, by requiring that all bidders for public projects shall possess the highest qualifications necessary to perform public contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township is required, pursuant to 53 P.S. § 68102(a), to award public contracts to the lowest “responsible” bidder, and the Township deems “responsible” bidders to possess all of the qualifications, expertise, personnel and resources set forth under these regulations;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it, and it is hereby **ORDAINED** by the Board of Supervisors of Warminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby **ENACTED** and **ORDAINED** by authority of same as follows:

**Section 1. Purpose**

The Township of Warminster (hereinafter “Warminster”) recognizes that there is a need to ensure that all work on public construction and maintenance contracts is performed by responsible, qualified firms that maintain the capacity, expertise, personnel and other qualifications and resources necessary to successfully perform public contracts in a timely, reliable and cost-effective manner.

To effectuate the purpose of selecting responsible contractors for public contracts and to protect Warminster investments in such contracts, prospective contractors and subcontractors, should be required to meet pre-established, clearly defined, minimum standards relating to contractor responsibility, including requirements and criteria concerning technical qualifications, competency, experience, adequacy of resources, including equipment, financial and personnel, and satisfactory records regarding past project performance, safety, law compliance and business integrity.

Further, due to the critical impact that skilled construction craft labor has on public works projects, and due to the limited availability of skilled construction craft labor and imminent craft labor skill shortages, it is necessary to require contractors and subcontractors to participate in established, formal apprenticeship training programs as a condition of bidding, for the purpose of both promoting successful project delivery and ensuring future workforce development. Warminster also recognizes that it is beneficial to the local community to ensure that firms receiving public contracts provide adequate wages and benefits to their employees and utilize fair business, employment and training practices that have a positive impact on local communities affected by such contracts.

Therefore, Warminster shall require compliance with the provisions of this ordinance by business entities seeking to provide services to Warminster as specified herein. The requirements of this ordinance are intended to supplement, not replace, existing contractor qualification and performance standards or criteria currently required by law, public policy or contracting documents. However, in the event that any of the provisions of this ordinance conflict with any law, public policy or contracting documents of Warminster this act shall prevail.

## **Section 2. Responsible Contractor Requirements**

- (a) All contractors and subcontractors of any tier that perform work valued at over \$100,000 (one hundred thousand) on any public facility or public works project, including construction, alteration, renovation, repair, service or maintenance work, shall meet the requirements of this ordinance.
- (b) All firms engaged in contracts covered by this ordinance shall be qualified, responsible contractors or subcontractors that have sufficient capabilities in all respects to successfully perform contracts on which they are engaged, including the necessary experience, equipment, technical skills and qualifications and organizational, financial and personnel resources. Firms bidding on public contracts shall also be required to have a satisfactory past performance record and a satisfactory record of law compliance, integrity and business ethics.

## **Section 3. Contractor Responsibility Certifications.**

- (a) As a condition of performing work on a public works contract subject to this ordinance, a general contractor, construction manager or other lead or prime contractor seeking award of a contract shall submit a Contractor Responsibility Certification at the time it submits its bid for a contract.
- (b) The Contractor Responsibility Certification shall be completed on a form provided by Warminster Township and shall reference the project for which a bid is being submitted by name and contract or project number.

(c) In the Contractor Responsibility Certification the construction manager, general contractor or other lead or prime contractor shall confirm the following facts regarding its past performance and work history and its current qualifications and performance capabilities:

- (1) The firm has all valid, effective licenses, registrations or certificates required by federal, state, county, or local law, including, but not limited to, licenses, registrations or certificates required to: (a) do business in the designated locale; and (b) perform the contract work it seeks to perform. These shall include, but not limited to, licenses, registrations or certificates for any type of trade work or specialty work which the firm proposes to self-perform.
- (2) The firm meets the bonding requirements for the contract, as required by applicable law or contract specifications and any insurance requirements, as required by applicable law or contract specifications, including general liability insurance, workers compensation insurance and unemployment insurance requirements.
- (3) The firm has not been debarred by any federal, state or local government agency or authority in the past three years.
- (4) The firm has not defaulted on any project in the past three years.
- (5) The firm has not had any type of business, contracting or trade license, registration, or other certification suspended or revoked in the past three years.
- (6) The firm has not been cited for a willful violation of federal or state safety laws in the past three years.
- (7) The firm and its owners have not been convicted of any crime relating to the contracting business by a final decision of a court or government agency in the past ten years.
- (8) The firm has not within the past three years been found in violation of any law applicable to its contracting business, including, but not limited to, licensing laws, tax laws, prompt payment laws, wage and hour laws, prevailing wage laws, environmental laws or others, where the result of such violation was the payment of a fine, back pay damages or any other type of penalty in the amount of \$1,000 or more.
- (9) The firm will pay all craft employees that it employs on the project the current wage rates and benefits as required under applicable federal, state or local wage laws.

- (10) The firm participates in a Class A Apprenticeship Program for each separate trade or classification in which it employs craft employees and shall continue to participate in such program or programs for the duration of the project.
- (A) For purposes of this section a Class A Apprenticeship Program is an apprenticeship program that is currently registered with and approved by the U.S. Department of Labor or a state apprenticeship agency and has graduated apprentices to journeyperson status for at least three of the past five years.
- (B) If a firm is identified as the lowest responsible bidder or otherwise selected as the prospective awardee or as a subcontractor of an awardee, it shall provide appropriate documentation, as determined by Warminster to verify it meets the requirements of this section for each trade or classification of craft workers it will employ on the project. This verification shall be provided prior to performance of work by the firm.
- (11) The firm has all other technical qualifications and resources, including equipment, personnel and financial resources, to perform the referenced contract, or will obtain same through the use of qualified, responsible subcontractors.
- (12) The firm will maintain all qualifications, resources and capabilities referenced in this certification throughout the duration of the project.
- (13) The firm shall notify Warminster within seven days of any material changes to all matters attested to in this certification.
- (14) The firm understands that the Contractor Responsibility Certification required by this section shall be executed by a person who has sufficient knowledge to address all matters in the certification and shall include an attestation stating, under the penalty of perjury, that the information submitted is true, complete and accurate.
- (d) Execution of the Contractor Responsibility Certification required by this ordinance shall not establish a presumption of contractor responsibility and Warminster may require any additional information it deems necessary to evaluate a firm's status as a responsible contractor, including technical qualifications, financial capacity or other resources and performance capabilities. Warminster may require that such information be included in a separate Statement of Qualifications and Experience or as an attachment to the Contractor Responsibility Certification.

- (e) The submitting firm shall stipulate in the Contractor Responsibility Certification that, if it receives a Notice of Intent to Award Contract, it will provide a Subcontractor List and required subcontractor information as specified in Section 5 of this ordinance.
- (f) If the submitting firm has ever operated under another name, or controls, is controlled by another company or business entity or in the past five years controlled or was controlled by another company or business entity, whether as a parent company, subsidiary or in any other business relation, it shall attach a separate statement to its Contractor Responsibility Certification that explains in detail the nature of any such relationship. Additional information may be required from such an entity if the relationship in question could potentially impact contract performance.
- (g) If a firm fails to provide a Contractor Responsibility Certification required by this section, it shall be disqualified from bidding. No action of any nature shall lie against Warminster because of its refusal to accept a bid for failing to provide information required by this section.

#### **Section 4. Notice of Intent to Award Contract.**

- (a) After it has received bids for a project, Warminster shall issue a *Notice of Intent to Award Contract* to the firm offering the lowest responsive bid.
- (b) Such Notice shall be issued immediately or as soon as practicable after bids are submitted and shall stipulate that the contract award will be conditioned on the issuance of a written Contractor Responsibility Determination, as required by section 6 of this ordinance and any other conditions determined appropriate by Warminster

#### **Section 5. Subcontractor Lists, Subcontractor Responsibility Certifications.**

- (a) Within seven days from the date of Notice of Intent to Award Contract, a prospective awardee shall submit to Warminster a Subcontractor List containing the names of subcontractors that will be used for the referenced project, their addresses and a description of the work each listed subcontractor will perform on the project.
- (b) At the time a prospective awardee submits the Subcontractor List it shall also submit Subcontractor Responsibility Certifications for all listed subcontractors to Warminster Subcontractor Responsibility Certifications shall be executed by the respective subcontractors on forms prepared by Warminster and shall contain the same information and representations required in Contractor Responsibility Certifications, including verification of apprenticeship qualifications as required by Section 3(c)(10), for each trade or classification of craft workers it will employ on the project.

- (c) Subcontractor Responsibility Certifications shall be executed by persons having sufficient knowledge to address all matters in the certification and shall include an attestation stating, under the penalty of perjury, that all information submitted is true, complete and accurate.

**Section 6. Contractor Responsibility Review and Determination.**

- (a) After a Notice of Intent to Award Contract has been issued, Warminster shall undertake a review process for a period of at least 30 days to determine whether the prospective awardee is a qualified, responsible contractor in accordance with the requirements of this ordinance and other applicable laws and regulations and has the resources and capabilities to successfully perform the contract.
- (b) As part of this review process, Warminster shall ensure that the Contractor Responsibility Certification, the Subcontractor List and the Subcontractor Responsibility Certifications, as required by this act, have been submitted and properly executed.
- (c) Warminster may conduct any additional inquiries to verify that the prospective awardee and its subcontractors have the technical qualifications and performance capabilities necessary to successfully perform the contract and that the firms have a sufficient record of law compliance and business integrity to justify the award of a public contract. In conducting such inquiries, Warminster may seek relevant information from the firm, its prior clients or customers, its subcontractors or any other relevant source.
- (d) If at the conclusion of its internal review, Warminster determines that all responsibility certifications have been properly completed and executed and if it concludes that the qualifications, background and responsibility of the prospective awardee and the firms on its Subcontractor List are satisfactory, it shall issue a written Contractor Responsibility Determination verifying that the prospective awardee is a qualified, responsible contractor. In the event a firm is determined to be non-responsible, Warminster shall advise the firm of its finding in writing and proceed to conduct a responsibility review of the next lowest, responsive bidder or, if necessary, re-bid the project.
- (e) The Contractor Responsibility Determination shall be issued at least 30 days after the date of the Notice of Intent to Award Contract. This Responsibility Determination may be revoked or revised in any manner at any time if Warminster obtains relevant information warranting any such revocation or revisions.

## **Section 7. Subcontractor Responsibility Review Requirements.**

- (a) A construction manager, general contractor or other lead or prime contractor shall not be permitted to use a subcontractor on any work performed for Warminster unless it has identified the subcontractor on its Subcontractor List and provided a Subcontractor Responsibility Certification in accordance with the requirements of Section 5 of this ordinance.
- (b) A subcontractor listed on a firm's Subcontractor List shall not be substituted unless written authorization is obtained from Warminster and a Subcontractor Responsibility Certification is provided for the substitute subcontractor.
- (c) In the event that Warminster determines that a prospective subcontractor listed by the apparent low bidder does not meet the responsibility standards of this Section, it may, after informing the prospective awardee, exercise one of the following options:
  - (1) permit the awardee to substitute a qualified, responsible, subcontractor in accordance with the requirements of this section;
  - (2) require the awardee to self-perform the work in question if the firm has the required experience, licenses and other qualifications to perform the work in question; or
  - (3) disqualify the prospective awardee.
- (d) In the event that a subcontractor is disqualified under this ordinance, the general contractor, construction manager or other lead or prime contractor shall not be permitted to make any type of contractual claim against Warminster on the basis of a subcontractor disqualification.

## **Section 8. Public Review Process.**

- (a) The Contractor Responsibility Certification for a firm identified in a Notice of Intent to Award Contract, Subcontractor Lists and Subcontractor Responsibility Certifications shall be made immediately available to the public for inspection through a publicly accessible website or other comparable means.
- (b) During the Public Review Period, any person or organization may protest a contractor or subcontractor for failing to meet applicable requirements of this ordinance or on any other relevant grounds by submitting a letter with supporting evidence to Warminster.
- (c) If Warminster determines that a Contractor or Subcontractor Responsibility Certification contains false or misleading material information that was provided knowingly or with reckless disregard for the truth or omits material information

knowingly or with reckless disregard of the truth, the firm for which the certification was submitted shall be prohibited from performing work for Warminster for a period of three years and shall be subject to any other penalties and sanctions, including contract termination, available to Warminster under law. A contract terminated under these circumstances shall further entitle Warminster to withhold payment of any monies due to the firm as damages.

- (d) A procurement contract subject to this ordinance shall not be executed until all requirements of this ordinance have been fulfilled and until Contractor and Subcontractor Responsibility Certifications and Subcontractor Lists have been made available for public inspection for at least twenty one days.

**Section 9. Severability, Effective Date.**

- (a) If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, any such holding shall not invalidate any other provisions of this ordinance and all remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.
- (b) This ordinance shall become effective five (5) days following enactment by the Board of Supervisors.
- (c) The requirements of this ordinance shall not apply to contracts executed prior to the effective date of this act, except that the exercise of an option on a contract covered by this ordinance shall be deemed to create a new contract for purposes of this ordinance.

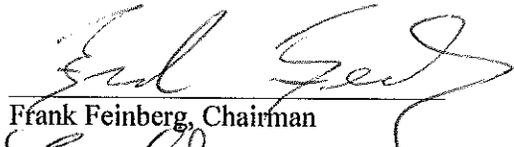
ORDAINED AND ENACTED, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009.

ATTEST:

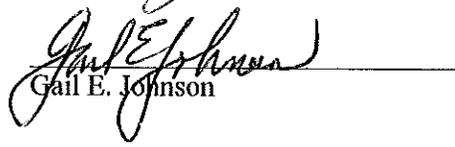


Township Manager

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