

# TOWN OF SENECA PROCUREMENT POLICY

Original Adoption 01/24/2011

Amended 04/17/2018

1. Every purchase to be made must be initially reviewed to determine whether it is a purchase contract or a public works contract. Once that determination is made, a good faith effort will be made to determine whether it is known or can reasonably be expected that the aggregate amount to be spent on the item of supply or service is not subject to competitive bidding, taking into account past purchases and the aggregate amount to be spent in the 12-month period commencing with the initial purchase.

The following items are not subject to competitive bidding pursuant to Section 103 of the General Municipal Law:

- Purchase contracts under \$20,000 and public works contracts under \$35,000
- Emergency purchases
- Certain municipal hospital purchases
- Goods purchased from agencies for the blind or severely handicapped
- Goods purchased from correctional institutions
- Purchases under State and County contracts
- Surplus and second- hand purchases from another governmental entity.

The decision that a purchase is not subject to competitive bidding will be documented in writing by the individual making the purchase. This documentation may include written or verbal quotes from vendors, a memo from vendors, a memo from the purchaser indicating how the decision was arrived at, a copy of the contract indicating the source which makes the item or service exempt, a memo from the purchaser detailing the circumstances which led to an emergency purchase, any other written documentation that is appropriate.

2. All goods and services will be secured by use of written requests for proposals, written quotations, verbal quotations, or any other method that assures that goods will be purchased at the lowest price and that favoritism will be avoided, except in the following circumstances: purchase contracts over \$20,000 and public works contracts over \$35,000; goods purchased from agencies for the blind or severely handicapped pursuant to Section 175-b of the State finance Law; goods purchased from correctional institutions pursuant to section 186 of the Correction Law; purchases under State contracts pursuant to Section 104 of the General Municipal Law; purchases under county contracts pursuant to Section 103 (3) of the General Municipal Law or purchases pursuant to subdivision 6 of this policy.

- The following method of purchase will be used when required by this policy in order to achieve the highest savings:

| <b><u>Estimated Amount of Purchase Contract</u></b> | <b><u>Method of Purchase</u></b>                             |
|---|--|
| \$ 0.00 - \$ 499.99                                 | No quotations  |
| \$ 500.00 - \$ 2,999.99                             | 2 Verbal Quotations  |
| \$ 3,000.00 - \$ 9,999.99                           | 2 Written/Fax Quotations                                     |
| \$ 10,000.00 – \$ 19,999.99                         | 3 Written/Fax Quotations or<br>Written Request for Proposals |

| <b><u>Estimated Amount of Public Works Contract</u></b> | <b><u>Method of Purchase</u></b>                             |
|---|--|
| \$ 0.00 - \$ 499.99                                     | No quotations  |
| \$ 500.00 - \$ 2,999.99                                 | 2 Verbal Quotations  |
| \$ 3,000.00 - \$ 4,999.99                               | 2 Written/Fax Quotations                                     |
| \$ 5,000.00 – \$ 34,999.99                              | 3 Written/Fax Quotations or<br>Written Request for Proposals |

A good faith effort shall be made to obtain the required number of proposals or quotations.

If the purchaser is unable to obtain the number of proposals or quotations, the purchaser will document the attempt made at obtaining the proposals. In no event shall the failure to obtain the proposals be a bar to the procurement.

- Documentation is required of each action taken in connection with each procurement.
- Documentation and an explanation is required whenever a contract is awarded to other than the lowest responsible offer. This documentation will include an explanation of how the award will achieve savings or how the offeror is not responsible and shall be made by the purchaser and may be challenged under any circumstances.
- Pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 104-b (2) (f), the Procurement Policy may contain circumstances when, or types of procurements for which, in the sole discretion of the governing body, the solicitation of alternative proposals or quotations will not be in the best interest of the municipality. In the following circumstances it may not be in the best

interest of the Town of Seneca to solicit quotations or document the basis for not accepting the lowest bid:

- A. Professional services or services required special or technical skill, training or expertise. The individual or company must be chosen based on accountability, reliability, responsibility, skill, education and training, judgement, integrity and moral worth. These qualifications are not necessarily found in the individual or company that offers the lowest price and the nature of these services are such that they do not readily lend themselves to competitive procurement policies.

In determining whether a service fits into this category, the Town Board shall take into consideration the following guidelines: (A) whether the services are subject to State licensing or testing requirements; (B) whether substantial formal education or training is a necessary prerequisite to the performance of the services; and (C) whether the services require a personal relationship between the individual and municipal officials.

Professional or Technical services shall include but not be limited to the following; services of an attorney; services of a physician; technical services of an engineer engaged to prepare plans maps or estimates; securing insurance coverage and/or services of an insurance broker; services of a verified public accountant; investment management services involving extensive writing, edition or art work; management of municipality owned property; and computer software or programming services for customized programs, or services involved in substantial modification and customizing of pre-packaged software.

- B. Emergency purchases pursuant to Section 103 (4) of the General Municipal Law. Due to the nature of this exception, these goods or services must be purchased immediately and a delay in order to seek alternate proposals may threaten the life health, safety or welfare of the residents. This section does not preclude alternate proposals if time permits.
- C. Purchases of surplus and second –hand goods from any source. If alternate proposals are required, the Town of Seneca is precluded from purchasing surplus and second hand goods at auctions or through specific advertised sources where the best prices are usually obtained. It is also difficult to try to compare prices of used goods and a lower price may indicate an older product.

D. Goods and services under \$500. The time and documentation required to purchase through this policy may be more costly than the item itself and would therefore not be in the best interests of the taxpayer. In addition, it is not likely that such de minimis contracts would be based on favoritism.

7. Purchase and Public Works Contracts shall be procured at a minimum of every four years.
8. This policy shall go into effect immediately and will be reviewed annually.