

April 24, 2024

Joshua Dusterhus, Supervisor
Town of Machias
3483 Roszyk Hill Road
Machias, New York 14101

Dear Supervisor Dusterhus:

Municipal Solutions, Inc. is submitting this proposal in connection with the Town of Machias' proposed water project for your consideration and approval.

Per the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's (MSRB) Rule G-42, we must have a current contract in place prior to work commencing. This contract must state fair market value rates and fees and be accepted by both the municipality and Municipal Solutions, Inc. We must, under rule G-42, show that we've acted in good faith with the issuer and to ensure the accuracy of representation in our contracts regarding the agreed upon scope and fees, whether the contract be a Preliminary Authorization to Proceed or a Full Contract.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) enforces the rules and regulations set by the MSRB. Municipal Solutions, Inc. is registered as a recognized municipal advisor with the SEC (MS ID #867-00383) and the MSRB (MS ID #K0173) as mandated by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act).

This proposal is divided into the following parts and rates can be found in the attached Appendix B:

- I. Preparation of an Application through RDApply
- II. Fiscal Services
- III. Conflicts of Interest and Other Required Disclosures
- IV. Miscellaneous

I. Preparation of an Application through RDApply

The following items will be completed under this portion of the contract:

- 1) Preparation and submission of an application for funding to the USDA Rural Development ("RD") through RDApply.

This portion of the contract will be billed at an hourly rate of \$165 with a minimum fee of \$5,500 and will be considered complete once the Town has received RD's Preliminary Eligibility Determination.

Municipal Solutions, Inc. is a Member of the National Association of Municipal Advisors

II. Fiscal Services

The following items will be completed under this portion of the contract, if appropriate and as requested:

- 1) Work with the engineer to establish a monthly cash flow for the term of the project.
- 2) Prepare a schedule of deadline dates to ensure contractors are paid monthly per contract documents.
- 3) Complete monthly paperwork to report progress and/or draw funds from funding agencies.
- 4) Assist in the preparation of information, development of an operating budget and cash flow that may be used for public or internal discussions in connection with the project or presentation to investors.
- 5) Attend construction or other meetings, as required.
- 6) Advise the Town on required principal and interest payments at budget time.
- 7) Complete a time-frame calendar for all items to be completed in connection with an anticipated borrowing.
- 8) Prepare various maturity schedules for Town officials to determine repayment of anticipated borrowed funds for planning purposes.
- 9) Coordinate board adoption of the bond resolution and other legal documents that may be required.
- 10) Compliance with IRS, MSRB and SEC regulations, reviews, and updates.
- 11) Application to secure CUSIP numbers for borrowings, as required.
- 12) Convert financial documents into useable formats for processing, if necessary.
- 13) Advise Town of additional funding opportunities that may arise for project. A separate contract will be submitted for the preparation of any funding applications not included in this contract.
- 14) Provide other financial consulting services as may be requested by the Town.

Fiscal Services will be billed at the current hourly rate of \$165 plus reimbursable expenses.

If there are services performed beyond the scope of the project, or if the project ceases for any reason, an invoice for work completed will be due at the current hourly rate of \$165 plus expenses.

The fees may be adjusted annually based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers.

Invoices will be submitted periodically. Payment is expected within 45 days of the invoice date.

III. Conflicts of Interest and Other Required Disclosures

Rule G-42 of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board requires us to provide you with certain disclosures regarding conflicts of interest and other required disclosures (the "Disclosures"). Those Disclosures are attached hereto in Appendix A. We further covenant and agree to provide to the Town updated Disclosures as required by Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Rule G-42 to the extent any arise after the date of this letter. The Disclosures, and each delivery thereof, as provided from time to time, shall be incorporated by reference as of the date thereof into this letter to the same extent as if set forth herein.

We at Municipal Solutions, Inc. operate with a core value of honesty and integrity in all aspects of our business. We pride ourselves on our competent and friendly staff and our services go above and beyond what our contracts call for. We do our very best to keep costs down and pass any savings back to our clients. If you have any concerns that are not addressed in this contract, we would be happy to discuss them with you at your convenience.

IV. Miscellaneous

Upon acceptance of this proposal, please execute and return one copy to our LeRoy office located at 62 Main Street, LeRoy, New York 14482 following the next Board meeting. The terms set forth above are subject to change if we do not receive a signed contract within 30 days. This contract will remain in effect until terminated by either party. You have the right to terminate this contract for any reason at any time.

We agree to promptly amend or supplement this letter to reflect any material changes or additions to the agreement evidenced by this letter.

If you should have any questions concerning this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with the Town.

Sincerely,



Theresa K. Smith, CEO

TKS/amp

**Town of Machias, New York
Contract Dated April 24, 2024
Water Project
Accepted by:**

Signature: _____

Name/Title: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX A

TOWN OF MACHIAS, NEW YORK Contract Dated April 24, 2024 Water Project

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Rule G-42 requires us, as your municipal advisor, to provide written disclosure to you about material conflicts of interest.

We have determined, after exercising reasonable diligence, that we have no known material conflicts of interest that would impair our ability to provide advice to the Town in accordance with our fiduciary duty to municipal entity clients. The attached paragraphs outline areas of potential conflicts of interest we have reviewed to make this no material conflict of interest determination.

Our proposal includes compensation for municipal advisory activities to be performed that is contingent on the size or closing of any transaction as to which Municipal Solutions, Inc. is providing advice, the potential conflicts that could occur as a result of this pricing compensation are outlined below.

FORMS OF COMPENSATION AS POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

The forms of compensation for municipal advisors vary according to the nature of the engagement and requirements of the client, among other factors. Various forms of compensation present actual or potential conflicts of interest because they may create an incentive for an advisor to recommend one course of action over another if it is more beneficial to the advisor to do so. This document discusses various forms of compensation and the timing of payments to the advisor.

Fixed fee - Under a fixed fee form of compensation, the municipal advisor is paid a fixed amount established at the outset of the transaction. The amount is usually based upon an analysis by the client and the advisor of, among other things, the expected duration and complexity of the transaction and the agreed-upon scope of work that the advisor will perform. This form of compensation presents a potential conflict of interest because, if the transaction requires more work than originally contemplated, the advisor may suffer a loss. Thus, the advisor may recommend less time-consuming alternatives, or fail to do a thorough analysis of alternatives. There may be additional conflicts of interest if the municipal advisor's fee is contingent upon the successful completion of a financing, as described below.

Hourly fee - Under an hourly fee form of compensation, the municipal advisor is paid an amount equal to the number of hours worked by the advisor times an agreed-upon hourly billing rate. This form of compensation presents a potential conflict of interest if the client and the advisor do not agree on a reasonable maximum amount at the outset of the engagement, because the advisor does not have a financial incentive to recommend alternatives that would result in fewer hours worked.

In some cases, an hourly fee may be applied against a retainer (*e.g.*, a retainer payable monthly), in which case it is payable whether or not a financing closes. Alternatively, it may be contingent upon the successful completion of a financing, in which case there may be additional conflicts of interest, as described below.

Fee contingent upon the completion of a financing or other transaction - Under a contingent fee form of compensation, payment of an advisor's fee is dependent upon the successful completion of a financing or other transaction. Although this form of compensation may be customary for the client, it presents a conflict because the advisor may have an incentive to recommend unnecessary financings or financings that are disadvantageous to the client. For example, when facts or circumstances arise that could cause the financing or other transaction to be delayed or fail to close, an advisor may have an incentive to discourage a full consideration of such facts and circumstances, or to discourage consideration of alternatives that may result in the cancellation of the financing or other transaction.

Fee paid under a retainer agreement - Under a retainer agreement, fees are paid to a municipal advisor periodically (*e.g.*, monthly) and are not contingent upon the completion of a financing or other transaction. Fees paid under a retainer agreement may be calculated on a fixed fee basis (*e.g.*, a fixed fee per month regardless of the number of hours worked) or an hourly basis (*e.g.*, a minimum monthly payment, with additional amounts payable if a certain number of hours worked is exceeded). A retainer agreement does not present the conflicts associated with a contingent fee arrangement (described above).

Fee based upon principal - Under this form of compensation, the municipal advisor's fee is based upon a percentage of the principal amount of an issue of securities (*e.g.*, bonds). This form of compensation presents a conflict of interest because the advisor may have an incentive to advise the client to increase the size of the securities issue for the purpose of increasing the advisor's compensation.

From time to time, Municipal Solutions, Inc. does provide municipal advisory assistance to surrounding municipalities including, but not limited to, the Villages of Arcade, Franklinville and Delevan, and the Towns of Arcade and Yorkshire. Municipal Solutions, Inc. is not aware of any material conflicts of interest that this relationship would bring to our fiduciary responsibility to the Town as of the date of this Agreement. If Municipal Solutions, Inc. becomes aware of any conflict of interest that could interfere with our fiduciary obligations to the Town, Municipal Solutions, Inc. will notify the Town that a conflict has been identified and we will meet with the Town to discuss the impacts of the conflict and possible methods to resolve the identified conflict areas.

RELIANCE ON OUTSIDE INFORMATION

In formulating our recommendations as it comes to the issuance of municipal securities, we often have to rely on information provided by outside sources such as engineering firms, architectural firms, CPAs, attorneys, and other professional entities, as well as the municipality itself. We must rely on the expertise and professional knowledge of these entities in that the information they are providing is reasonable and correct. As part of our fiduciary duty to our clients, we will do our best to make sure this is the case. If we feel that the information provided to us is inaccurate, inconsistent, or incomplete, we will ensure to tell you before providing any recommendations based on the material.

LEGAL OR DISCIPLINARY EVENTS

Municipal Solutions, Inc. is registered as a “municipal advisor” pursuant to Section 15B of the Securities Exchange Act and rules and regulations adopted by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”). As part of this registration, we are required to disclose to the SEC information regarding criminal actions, regulatory actions, investigations, terminations, judgments, liens, civil judicial actions, customer complaints, arbitrations and civil litigation involving Municipal Solutions, Inc. Pursuant to MSRB Rule G-42, Municipal Solutions, Inc. is required to disclose any legal or disciplinary event that is material to the Town’s evaluation of Municipal Solutions, Inc. or the integrity of its management or advisory personnel.

We have determined that no such event exists.

Copies of Municipal Solutions, Inc. filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission can currently be found by accessing the SEC’s EDGAR Company Search Page which is currently available at <https://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html> and searching for either Municipal Solutions, Inc. or for our CIK number which is 0001612999.

The MSRB has made available on its website (www.msrb.org) a municipal advisory client brochure that describes the protections that may be provided by MSRB rules and how to file a complaint with the appropriate regulatory authority.