

June 28, 2011

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Township has performed a revaluation of all properties located in the Township pursuant to Title 54 of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the revaluation contract, the revaluation vendor, Appraisal System Inc. ("ASI") is obligated to defend all valuations for two (2); and

WHEREAS, approximately 877 tax appeals were timely filed with the vast bulk pending before the County Board of Taxation; and

WHEREAS, ASI and the Tax Assessor will attend and assist with regard to the review and prosecution of these matters; and

WHEREAS, the Township must retain legal counsel to assist it with regard to the various tax appeals; and

WHEREAS, the Law Department has reviewed various proposals and recommends the engagement of Stephen E. Schwartz, Esq. to assist with regard to these hearings which will be scheduled for several months with approximately thirty (30) cases being handled each session; and

WHEREAS, the Law Department has negotiated a flat rate of \$350 per session with Mr. Schwartz inclusive of all preparation, prosecution, follow up and related services regardless of how many hours each session lasts inclusive of travel, parking and other expenses; and

WHEREAS, the retention of tax appeal counsel was handled through a fair and open process of in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the Township currently estimates approximately thirty (30) sessions which will cause a total expenditure of approximately \$10,500; and

WHEREAS, the current budget has allocated sufficient funds for this expenditure and the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds;

NOW, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Township Council of the Township of West Orange that the Township be and is hereby authorized to retain Stephen E. Schwartz, Esq. as special tax counsel at a rate of \$350 per session before the County Board of Taxation up to a maximum expenditure of \$10,500; and it is further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be published and available in accordance with applicable law.

Karen J. Carnevale, Municipal Clerk

Sal M. Anderton, Council President

Adopted: June 28, 2011