FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #2021-38

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AGRICULTURAL LEASE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14 authorizes the lease by municipalities of any real property, capital improvements or personal property or interests therein, not needed for public use to the highest bidder by open public bidding at auction or by submission of sealed bids after the required newspaper advertisements; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Franklin is the owner of certain real property not needed for public use and the Township Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township to lease the property for agricultural use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that the properties listed on Exhibit A attached shall be offered for lease to the highest bidder by submission of sealed bids, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14. Opening of the sealed bid submissions will be conducted on September 15, 2021 at 10 am at the Municipal Building, 202 Sidney Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867. All sealed bids are required to be submitted prior to the bid opening.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subject property shall be offered for public bidding as set forth below and shall be leased pursuant to the further expressed conditions enumerated below:

- 1. Each bid is subject to the rejection or acceptance by the Township Committee which shall occur no later than at its second regular meeting following the bid opening. The Township Committee reserves the right to reject all bids. If no action is taken by the Township Committee by the second regular meeting, then the bid shall be deemed to be rejected. The Township also reserves the right to postpone the date of sale and to withdraw the real property from bidding all together.
- 2. The minimum bid for each property is listed in Exhibit A. Each bidder shall submit his bid in terms set forth in Section IV of the proposed Farm Lease.

- 3. Each bidder shall be required to submit an executed farm lease with his bid.
- 4. The successful bidder shall be required to submit payment in accordance with the farm lease.
- 5. The lease is made subject to all applicable laws and ordinances of the State of New Jersey and the Township of Franklin. The lease is further made subject to all deed restrictions including but not limited to any applicable Green Acres restrictions (N.J.A.C. 7:36-25.13).
- 6. Any descriptions of the property published by the Township are intended as a general guide only and may not be accurate. No representations of any kind are made by the Township of Franklin as to the conditions of the property or its suitability for farming.
- 7. It is conclusively presumed that the bidder prior to making his bid as done the following:
 - a. Checked the exact location, including street address and lot size of the property.
 - b. Made a personal inspection of the property prior to biding on the farm lease. Potential bidders should contact the Township Clerk at 908-735-5215 to schedule an inspection.
 - c. Bidder has thoroughly and completely read the proposed farm lease and agrees to every provision contained therein.
 - d. Bidder is familiar the Green Acres restrictions contained in N.J.A.C. 7:36-25.13 and all other deed restriction on the property.
- 8. Successful bidder is required to provide a certificate of insurance in the amounts detailed in Section V of the Farm Lease.

ADOPTED: 08/12/2021

Township Committee

Philip Koury, Mayor

Attest and Affix Seal:

Christine J. Burke, RMC

Municipal Clerk

I, Christine J. Burke, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, do hereby certify this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting held on August 12, 2021.

Christine Burke, RMC
Municipal Clerk

EXHIBIT A

	Minimum Bid
1. Block 4, Lot 3.01	\$100/year
2. Block 35, Lot 26.01	\$100/year
3. Block 25, Lots 1.03 & 1.04	\$100/year

Notice to Bidders

Take notice that on the 15th day of September, 2021, the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, shall take sealed bids for the lease of certain real property owned by the Township of Franklin for agricultural purposes from 2022 - 2026. The lands to be leased are shown on the Tax Map as Block 35, Lot 26.01. All bidders should be aware that the Township will be separately leasing the wooded portion of this property for hunting purposes.

Bids shall be delivered to the Township of Franklin, 202 Sidney Road, Pittstown, New Jersey 08867. The sealed envelope shall bear the notation "Bid for Farm Lease of Block 35, Lot 26.01." All bids must be delivered to the Municipal Clerk by 10:00am on the 15th day of September, 2021. The winning bid will be awarded at the September 23rd Committee meeting at 7:30 pm. After awarding the bid the Township is required to adopt an ordinance before it can formally sign the lease agreement, the adoption of the Ordinance is scheduled for October 28, 2021.

Bid documents are available from the Clerk during regular business hours or by submitting a written request with a postage paid, return envelope. The bid document includes the contract that the Township intends to use to award this bid. The contract is currently being reviewed by the State of Jersey for Green Acres compliance and is subject to change based upon NJDEP's review. By submitting a bid, the bidder is acknowledging that he/she has reviewed all the terms of the contract and N.J.A.C. 7:36-25.13 and agrees to comply with all requirements.

Every bid must include the full name and address of the bidder, as well as the person or entity that shall actually perform the farming. The bid shall state the rent to be paid on a calendar year basis for each year individually. The Township reserves the right to award the bid on an individual year basis or any combination thereof.

Every bid must include an explanation of the farm plan for the property (i.e. what will be farmed/raised) for each year of the lease. If Bidder intends to enroll, enter or continue any government or non-profit programs, including but not limited USDA or NRCS, those programs must be identified and explained at the time of bid and, to the extent possible, all documentation and/or enrollment paperwork must be provided with the bid.

Every bid must include proof of adequate insurance in conformance with the insurance requirements listed in the contract. The Township and NJDEP must be named as additional insureds. An Affidavit of Non-Collusion and Iran Certification must be included.

The bid, if awarded, shall be made to the highest responsible bidder. The Township reserves the right to reject all bids. The Township reserves the right to waive such defects in any bid that does not, in the Township's discretion, materially affect the bid.

Christine Burke Franklin Township Municipal Clerk

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Bids shall be delivered to the Township of Franklin, 202 Sidney Road, Pittstown, New Jersey 08867. The sealed envelope shall bear the notation "Bid for Farm Lease of Block 4, Lot 3.01." All bids must be delivered to the Municipal Clerk by 10:00am on the 15th day of September 2021. The winning bid will be awarded at the September 23rd Committee meeting at 7:30 pm. After awarding the bid the Township is required to adopt an ordinance before it can formally sign the lease agreement, the adoption of the Ordinance is scheduled for October 28, 2021.

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