



Michael J. Driscoll
Town Manager

TOWN OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the Town Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
townmgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager
Date: May 21, 2020
RE: Town Council Approval of Town Attorney

In accordance with the provisions of the attached Town Council Order #0-2000-40, I hereby request Town Council approval of the firm of KP Law as Town Attorney.

The firm of KP Law has served as Town Attorney since April 1993. The firm has a total of 45 attorneys, consisting of 24 Shareholders, 7 Members, and 14 Associates/of Counsel. KP Law represents 141 municipalities as Town Counsel or City Solicitor, with numerous other municipalities represented as Special Counsel. Of those 141 municipalities, the Firm has represented 50 of them for over 25 years.

Mark R. Reich, Esquire, KP Law has served as the Town's primary attorney since February 2003. Enclosed please find correspondence from Mr. Reich outlining some of the recent matters that the Town Attorney has provided assistance to the Town along with identifying the team of attorneys with expertise in specific areas of municipal law that has been established to serve the Town's various needs. Additionally, in an effort to further improve the efficiency of legal services, Mr. Reich indicates KP Law will provide no-cost seminars and training in areas of particular legal significance, such as the Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law, Conflict of Interest Law, or other topics of particular concern.

Based upon their municipal law specialists and their extensive municipal experience, I believe continuing the professional relationship with KP Law as the Town Attorney is in the best interest of the citizens of Watertown.

cc: Mark R. Reich, Esquire, KP Law
Joseph S. Fair, Esquire, KP Law
Department Heads



Town Council

TOWN OF WATERTOWN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • WATERTOWN, MA 02472-4410
(617)972-6470 • FAX (617)972-6485

ORDER #40

O-2000-40

**BIENNIAL TOWN COUNCIL APPROVAL
OF
TOWN ATTORNEY AND GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDER(S)**

WHEREAS, the City known as the Town of Watertown relies exclusively on the services of a consulting law firm(s) for its Town Attorney and General Legal Services; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Town Charter, the Town Manager appoints Town Attorney and General Legal Services Provider(s) subject to the approval of the Town Council; and,

WHEREAS, Town Attorney and General Legal Services are essential to the effective operation of the Town of Watertown; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown is one of the major users of Town Attorney and General Legal Services; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council believes that it is in the public interest for the Town Council to review and approve or reject biennially the Town Manager's appointment(s) for Town Attorney and General Legal Services provider(s);

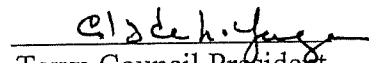
NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED: That the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown does hereby direct that the Town Manager shall on or before the first of June of every other year, commencing in the year 2002, provide to the Town Council all of the materials necessary to enable the Town Council to review and approve or reject the Town Manager's appointment(s) for Town Attorney and General Legal Services provider(s) for the next fiscal year prior to the start of that next fiscal year; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown does hereby direct that the Town Manager shall on or before the first of September, 2000 provide to the Town Council all of the materials necessary to enable the Town Council to review and approve or reject the Town Manager's appointment(s) for Town Attorney and General Legal Services provider(s) for fiscal year 2001, with said Town Council approval or rejection to be decided not later than the thirtieth of September, 2000.


Town Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 9 - For, 0 - Against and 0 - Present on June 27, 2000.


Town Council Clerk


Town Council President



The Leader in Public Sector Law

101 Arch Street, Boston, MA 02110
Tel: 617.556.0007 | Fax: 617.654.1735
www.k-plaw.com

May 21, 2020

Mark R. Reich
mreich@k-plaw.com

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Michael J. Driscoll
Town Manager
Watertown Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Re: Town Attorney Services

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

I am pleased to write to you regarding the biennial appointment of the Town Attorney for the City known as the Town of Watertown. KP Law has served as the Town Attorney for twenty-seven years, working closely with the Town Administration and Town Council to provide legal guidance, advice, and opinions on a broad variety of matters facing the Town.

Recent matters in which the firm has provided assistance include the designation of a Chapter 40B Safe Harbor status for the Town, negotiation of several labor and employment agreements, and review of agreements relative to the Town’s ongoing school construction projects. We have assisted with ongoing reviews of zoning ordinance amendments and the continued development of a noise ordinance. Of late, we have been tasked with assisting the Town with the myriad issues arising from the Novel Coronavirus pandemic currently gripping the Commonwealth and the country as a whole.

I have served as the Town’s primary attorney for seventeen years, including attendance at meetings of the Town Council and working with the Administration on interpretations of statutes and ordinances, development of regulations, and procurement and approval of contracts. The Town is further served by attorneys at the firm with specific areas of expertise. Attorney Joseph S. Fair advises the Town on labor and employment matters, as well as acting as my back-up for those times when I am not immediately available to you. Attorney Carolyn M. Murray advises on matters of land use and development. Attorney Katharine L. Klein attends to the Town’s real estate needs. Additional attorneys are available to serve the Town as required. The Town receives advice from attorneys who have lengthy and extensive experience with the Town and its requirements.

I am available to meet with you and the Town Council in executive session to review pending litigation. I, and the attorneys at the firm, are also available to provide no-cost seminars and trainings in areas of particular legal significance, such as the Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law, Conflict of Interest Law, or other topics of interest.



Mr. Michael J. Driscoll

May 21, 2020

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KP Law is proud of its long association with the City known as the Town of Watertown and its accomplishments for the Town over these many years. It remains my goal to assure efficient accessible legal service to you and the Town. It is a privilege to serve as Town Attorney and we look forward to continuing in that role.

If you have any questions on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark R. Reich'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mark R. Reich

MRR/cqm

721224/WATR/0001