



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Milwaukee County

Date: January 17, 2017 ^{CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE}
To: Supervisor Peggy Romo West, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee
From: Jon Janowski, Director of Legislative Affairs, Milwaukee County Executive Office
Subject: Purchasing Standardization Committee background

I am providing the following background information relating to the County Executive's four appointments to the Purchasing Standardization Committee this month.

Milwaukee County Ordinance 32.26 and 32.23, provides for formation of a Milwaukee County Purchasing Standardization Committee (PSC) created by ordinance to hear appeals related to sealed bids and proposals. Appeals are only related to Chapter 32 acquisitions.

This PSC is comprised of ten members - five private citizens (four that are nominated by the County Executive this cycle) and five departmental members comprised of representatives from the following departments: Human Resources, Parks, Transportation, Administrative Services, and Sheriff's Department. Departmental representatives are chosen by the department head.

Per County Ordinance 32.23, the County Executive's appointments are made for a term of four years. All of the County Executive's appointees must live in Milwaukee County, must have procurement knowledge and experience, and must be confirmed by Milwaukee County Board.

Appeals heard by the PSC are limited solely to Chapter 32 administrative acquisition decisions. Each appeal is made to the PSC by delivering a written request for an appeal hearing to the Procurement Division within 72 hours after receipt of various procurement determinations outlined in ordinance. The request must state the grounds upon which the protest is based and formally requests an appeal hearing. No award is final until disposition of the protest. There have been no appeals to the PSC for over five years.

A request for appeal has been submitted to the PSC related to a recent RFP for a phone system. The appeal hinges on a single point related to the selection to award and the contractor's compliance with a technical specification (called "active/active functionality") within the acquisition. To adequately address the appeal in a timely fashion as prescribed in ordinance, and considering that prior PSC appointments have expired and that PSC membership currently requires a six-member quorum, we request the confirmation of these appointments so this appeal may be heard.

I hope this background information is helpful. Thank you for your attention to this matter.