

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**MAY 14, 2020**

**ITEM 6**

**APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH RENNE PUBLIC LAW GROUP (RPLG) WHICH INTEGRATES TERMS FROM ANN DANFORTH'S CONTRACT AS LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve an agreement for legal services with Renne Public Law Group (RPLG) which integrates terms from Ann Danforth's services as legal counsel for the district.

**BACKGROUND**

The Renne Public Law Group (RPLG) has asked Ann Danforth, legal counsel for KPPCSD, to join their firm on an of-counsel basis so that she may take on some contract work for their public clients. To continue the services of Ms. Danforth, the Board is requested to approve a new contract for legal services with RPLG (attached) that incorporates the terms of Ms. Danforth's services as legal counsel for the District.

Under the proposed contract, Ms. Danforth shall continue to serve as General Counsel to the District. As such, she will continue to perform all basic General Counsel duties and functions entrusted to her by the District including attendance at Board Meetings and other District meetings as requested; regular office hours; provision of legal advice on District matters, including by email or phone; preparation of ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and other legal documents pertaining to District affairs. Her legal services will not include matters in which RPLG has a conflict of interest that precludes RPLG from representing the District, members of the District Board, officers or employees of District. If RPLG has a conflict of interest or lacks expertise to handle a particular assignment, RPLG shall, following consultation with the General Manager, provide the District with a recommendation to hire outside counsel.

Upon the effective date of the contract, the bills for Ms. Danforth's services will come from RPLG, with the hourly rate for her legal services remaining unchanged for the remainder of the calendar year. Specifically, for General Counsel Services provided individually by Ms. Danforth, the District will pay \$210 per hour, which is Ms. Danforth's current rate, with that rate discounted by 25% for the first four hours of Board meetings.

Consistent with past practice of the Board, the contract provides that the hourly rate increase at the beginning of the next calendar year by \$15 to \$225. In addition, the new contract incorporates Ms. Danforth's request to eliminate the 25% discount for the first four hours of Board meetings effective January 1, 2021. This discounted meeting rate is not standard practice for the industry, and the basic hourly rate is already below market before this discount.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Discuss the item, take public comment, and approve the legal services contract with Renne Public Law Group (RPLG), incorporating the legal services of Ann Danforth.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact resulting from the change in services by Ms. Danforth being transferred to RPLG. There is a future impact from the increase in hourly rates beginning January 1, 2021, with the increased rate being consistent with past practice.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Contract for legal services with Renne Public Law Group

**SUBMITTED BY:** Bill Lindsay, General Manager