



PERSSON, COHEN & MOONEY, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Schneier and the Town Commission
FROM: Maggie D. Mooney, Town Attorney
DATE: April 26, 2021
RE: Engagement of Special Counsel for Potential Right of Way Acquisitions

In the next three-five years, the Town is considering several large-scale capital projects that may require the Town to secure various rights of way for the Town's public projects. Special Counsel that specializes in right of way acquisitions is recommended to assist the Town in planning for and addressing potential legal issues that may arise in the event the projects necessitate the use of lands outside of existing public rights of ways. The Town Manager and I recommend that special counsel be appointed to represent the Town's interest and assist in planning for the potential large scale capital projects to address any issues that may arise.

The law firm of Gaylord, Merlin, Ludovici & Diaz ("Law Firm") has been recommended to the Town and specializes in right of way acquisitions. A copy of the Law Firm's engagement letter is attached. The Law Firm has quoted a reduced billable rate of \$300.00/hr for attorney services, and \$125.00/hr for paralegal services. A copy of the bios for the attorneys in the firm is also included for reference. The Town Manager and I have met with and interviewed the lawyers of the Law Firm, and the Town Manager concurs with my recommendation to engage the services of Gaylord, Merlin, Ludovici & Diaz.

Recommendation: Authorize the Town Manager to execute the engagement agreement with the law firm of Gaylord, Merlin, Ludovici & Diaz to provide special counsel services to the Town for potential right of way acquisitions.

Att. (2):

- 1) April 8, 2021 letter from Blake Gaylord (Available in Town Clerk's Office)
- 2) Bio Sheet on lawyers from Gaylord, Merlin, Ludovici & Diaz (Available in Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item