

CPWA Procurement Policy

Determination of the Need for Competitive Bidding:

General Municipal Law requires purchase contracts exceeding \$20,000 and public works contracts exceeding \$35,000, be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder after public advertising requesting sealed bids.

In determining the necessity for competitive bidding, the aggregate cost of an item or commodity estimated to be purchased in a fiscal year would be considered.

The term “public works contract” would apply to those items or projects involving labor, or both materials and labor. Included in this category would be construction, paving, printing, repair contracts, etc.

The advertisement for bids shall contain a statement of the time and place where all bids will be publicly opened and read. The Authority retains the right to reject any and all bids at any time.

The bid announcement will be placed in the Authority’s designated official newspaper for at least one day as a minimum.

Purchases Exempt from Competitive Bidding:

Provisions in State Law allow certain procurements to be exempt from the competitive bidding requirements as follows:

1. Purchases made from state contracts issued by the Office of General Services.
2. Prison Industries and Industries of the Blind purchases.
3. Professional services such as: insurances, medical services, legal services, engineering services, and accounting services.
4. Emergencies arising out of accident or unforeseen circumstances that impair the CPWA’s ability to pump, treat or deliver water, as necessary, to its customers.
5. Purchases made under “piggyback” contracts that are made available through any county within the State of New York.

Standardization of Purchase:

When deemed necessary, for reasons of economy and efficiency, the Authority may approve a standard of purchase of a material or equipment.

Standardization, as the word implies, restricts a purchase to a specific make, model, or type of equipment or supply. For example, to limit the purchase of trucks to a particular make or model based on past performance or to reduce the inventory of spare parts, may be acceptable, provided that sufficient justification is supplied to the Authority Board of Directors.

In order to apply this standardization, the Board must approve the purchase by a two-thirds majority vote.

Inspection of Commodities after Delivery:

Primary responsibility to ensure full vendor performance with contract requirements and commodity specifications, lies in the inspection at the point of receipt. This is particularly true with regard to delivery specifications, including damage to or shortage of, merchandise. Staff must inspect immediately upon delivery, and damaged goods should be refused for delivery.

If there is a shortage, personnel should insist on a notation to that effect on the freight receipt. Both the Authority and the contractor must be notified immediately. All packing slips must be forwarded to the office.

Purchase Requisitions:

All requirements for goods and services shall be recorded on a requisition form and forwarded to the Administrator for approval and line item assignment.

The following information is necessary on the requisition:

1. Date
2. Person requesting order
3. Place material is to be delivered
4. Delivery requirements (rush, time frame, special delivery vehicle requirements)
5. Description of item/service required, including part/catalog numbers (if applicable)
6. Suggested vendor and cost if available
7. Signature of person making request

Any additional information, such as price quotes or other available vendors or literature for specialized equipment should accompany the requisition form at the time of presentation to the Administrator.

All approved requisitions will generate a purchase order. One copy of the purchase order (pink) will be returned to the requisitioner. This copy will serve to verify that the item has been ordered. Another copy (yellow) will be forwarded to the Business Manager. Once the item has been delivered and inspected, the packing slip should be attached to the requisitioner's copy of the purchase order, and the copy should be signed indicating that the item has been received in satisfactory condition. This copy shall be forwarded to the Business Manager for payment.

Blanket Purchase Orders:

Blanket purchase orders are set up with vendors from whom the Authority purchases a number of small items, such as nuts, bolts, small hand tools, hose, etc., or for purchases of identical items or services that are made from an individual vendor frequently over the course of the year.

Vendors that may be issued blanket purchase orders are:

- Local hardware stores
- Treatment chemical suppliers
- Suppliers of cartridge filters for the Boyack Treatment Plant
- Contracted IT service provider
- Shipping vendors (UPS, Fedex)

Authorized Authority staff may make purchases at these specified vendors. Vendors will be approved by the Authority Administrator and will be set up with maximum per-purchase dollar amounts, determined by historical purchases, at the time the blanket purchase order is created. All invoices will be matched to receipts or delivery tickets by the Business Manager for verification of approved purchase.

The vendor may bill the Authority monthly for a partial payment against the open purchase order.

Purchase Order Quotations:

The following rules apply to all Authority purchases:

1. Purchases of more than \$1,500, but less than \$3,000, will require at least two verbal quotes recorded.
2. Purchases of \$3,000 or more, but less than \$5,000, will require three verbal quotes recorded.

3. Purchases of \$5,000 or more, but less than \$20,000, will require three written quotes filed.
4. Purchases of \$20,000 or more will require competitive bidding.

Approval of Purchases:

All purchases require the prior approval of the Authority Administrator. In the absence of the Administrator, in instances where the purchase cannot be delayed, approvals will be determined by the Business Manager.

Payment:

All payments require signature of the Authority Administrator. In the absence of the Administrator, in instances where the payment cannot be delayed, approvals will be determined by the Business Manager.

Any individual payment over \$5,000 will require a second signature from the Board Chairperson or Treasurer before payment is issued, the second signature can be issued via electronic signature (ie, Docusign or similar). The following categories are exempt from requiring a second signature:

- Utility bills
- Equipment/Software service contracts
- Fuel
- Health insurance
- General Liability Insurance
- Workers' compensation insurance
- Treatment chemicals
- Purchased water
- Property and school taxes
- Emergency repairs