

**PENNINGTON BOROUGH
RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 1.3**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING WALTER R. BLISS, JR.
AS BOROUGH ATTORNEY FOR THE YEAR 2026**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pennington has a need to appoint a Borough Attorney and to contract for related professional legal services in the year 2026;

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and has certified in writing that the anticipated value of this contract for professional services, having a term of one (1) year, will exceed \$17,500;

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded as a professional services contract in compliance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq., without advertising for proposals or competitive bidding, because the services contracted for are of such a qualitative nature as will not reasonably permit the drawing of specifications or the receipt of competitive bids;

WHEREAS, Walter R. Bliss, Jr. has served as Borough Attorney and proposes to continue to serve in this capacity in both litigation and non-litigation matters at the billing rate of \$140 per hour, plus reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses;

WHEREAS, total fees for the legal services of Walter R. Bliss Jr. and the Law Offices of Walter R. Bliss Jr., including expenses, shall not exceed in the aggregate \$70,500.00 without the prior written approval of Borough Council; except pursuant to a separate contract addressed to a specific litigation;

WHEREAS, approval of this contract complies with the Local Pay-To-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, effective January 1, 2006, which except in prescribed circumstances prohibits the award of contracts with a value in excess of \$17,500 to any person or business entity which makes reportable contributions to local political or candidate committees representing members of the governing body;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bliss has completed and submitted a sworn Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that neither he nor his firm has made nor shall make any political contribution prohibited by the relevant provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, regarding pay-to-play;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bliss shall comply with requirements for Anti-Discrimination and Affirmative Action as set forth in the annexed Schedule A;

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough has certified that funds are available for the purpose of this contract in budget line #: 6-01-20-155-000-261;

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a resolution authorizing an award of contract for professional services without competitive bid be publicly advertised following adoption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington that Walter R. Bliss, Jr. be appointed as Borough Attorney of the Borough of Pennington in compliance with applicable law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor, with the attestation of the Borough Clerk, is hereby authorized to enter into a professional services agreement with Walter R. Bliss, Jr. in the form annexed hereto;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be published in the Hopewell Valley News as required by law within ten (10) days of its adoption.

Record of Council Vote on Passage

COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
Angarone					Rubenstein				
Chandler					Stern				
Kassler-Taub					Valenza				

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington at a meeting on January 5, 2026.

Elizabeth Sterling, Borough Clerk