

**RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A "FAIR AND OPEN" CONTRACT FOR  
RFP #5-26 SPECIAL/CONFLICTS COUNSEL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Tinton Falls has a need for professional Special/Conflicts Counsel services that may arise during the contract year, January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has, through the fair and open process, advertised on its website and in the Asbury Park Press on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, the solicitation for receipt of proposals from legal firms for said services, and five (5) proposals were received and documented on Wednesday, December 3, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has reviewed all proposals received, and it was determined the firm of Caruso & Baxter P.A., 1129 Broad Street, #103, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702, satisfies the requisites contained in the Request for Proposals to be considered for professional Special/Conflict Counsel services that the Borough may require during the contract year; and

**WHEREAS**, this contract is to be awarded for Special/Conflict Counsel Matters for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, plus miscellaneous reimbursables for professional Special/Conflicts Counsel services; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Tinton Falls as follows:

1. The firm of Caruso & Baxter, P.A. is hereby retained to provide professional Special/Conflict Counsel Services for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 plus miscellaneous reimbursables for a term expiring December 31, 2026.
2. This contract is awarded through the fair and open process as a Professional Service in accordance with NJSA 19:44A-20.5 et seq. and in accordance with NJSA 40A:11-5(1)(a) because it is for services performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.
3. A copy of this Resolution, as well as the contract, shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Borough of Tinton Falls.
4. The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to publish a public notice of this award as required by law.

I hereby certify funds availability contingent upon the necessary funds being appropriated by the governing body in the 2026 Municipal Budget as follows: Legal \$50,000.00

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Thomas P. Fallon, Chief Financial Officer

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Michael J. Nesci, Council President

**BOROUGH OF TINTON FALLS COUNCIL**

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Moved</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Mr. Alessi						
Ms. Buckley						
Mr. Neis						
Mr. Parikh						
Mr. Nesci						

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Michelle Hutchinson, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Tinton Falls, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Tinton Falls Borough Council at their meeting held January 20, 2026.

WITNESS, my hand and the seal of the Borough of Tinton Falls, this 20th day of January 2026.

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Michelle Hutchinson  
Borough Clerk