Farmingville, NY - On Tuesday, March 2, Supervisor Mark Lesko and the Town Board unanimously voted to reform the Town of Brookhaven's procurement policy. The procurement policy is a set of internal policies and procedures that govern procurement of all goods and services that are not subject to competitive bidding requirements governed by General Municipal Law of New York State.

"As a college football player we would talk about 'getting on the bus', and in a larger sense, it meant that you were on the team. In my State of the Town Address, I said that there are two buses outside Town Hall. One is headed towards progress, towards success and our limitless potential as a Town. And the other bus is headed to the past, where politics and partisanship ruled the day. It's our choice what bus we get on," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "the procurement policy reforms are another example of progress in the Town of Brookhaven."

The new procurement policy reforms include the strongest requirements for written documentation in the town's history, increasing accountability and transparency. These stricter requirements include:

For any procurement, the new policy requires that the department head must justify in writing why a service is needed and why the price is reasonable given current market conditions.

Now, written documentation also must be provided if a contract is not awarded to the lowest bidder, and the Department of Purchasing will issue a semi-annual report to the Town Board outlining all of the contracts not awarded to the lowest bidder.

When the town makes purchases of $1,000 to $10,000 for commodities or $3,000 to $35,000 for public works or non-professional services, three price quotations are required. The new policy strengthens documentation requirements for the quotations and requires written documentation if for any reason three quotes were not obtained. The documentation must also explain why the quotes could not be obtained and why the service is needed.

Finally, if a service is considered a "sole source", the department conducting the purchase must document it in writing. All sole source contracts are approved by the Town Board, and under the new policy, the documentation justifying the sole source contract will be attached to the Town Board resolution.

All of the required documentation must now be filed in the Department of Purchasing.