



**LEGISLATION & ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE RTM
COMMITTEE REPORT
REVIEW OF CHPTR. 3.08 TO REFLECT PUBLIC ACT 25-92 (RTC 10/6/25)**

Background & Current Committee Action

Jan. 21, 2026 Committee Meeting. Initial meeting of the new committee; general overview of all pending issues. Public Act 25-92 raises the threshold for sealed bidding on certain municipal contracts from \$25,000 to \$35,000. Committee will invite Kim Allen, finance director, and Shea Davy, purchasing agent, to speak to this item during a future meeting.

(Referral request, ordinances, and Public Act 25-92 available with meeting agenda at waterfordct.org)

Feb. 9, 2026 Committee Meeting. Shea Davy, purchasing agent, spoke in favor of raising the formal bid process threshold from twenty-five thousand to thirty-five thousand dollars. Davy cited rising costs, consistency with neighboring municipalities, and cost savings to the Town by reducing the need for formal bid advertising. The Committee was in agreement to amend the ordinance and recommend adoption by the RTM, with direction to consult with Town Counsel and initiate the required public hearing process.

Mar. 19, 2026 Committee Meeting. Town Attorney Kristi Kelly reviewed recommended revisions to Ordinance 3.08.030 from March 10, 2026, and suggested additional stylistic changes for consistency with the chapter. Stylistic changes included removing the standalone section heading ("A"), renumbering subsections from "1" and "2" to "A" and "B" for consistency. Additional discussion on style included replacing colons with semicolons in the citation, and adding the approval date to the citation. Kelly outlined the ordinance approval process, including committee vote, submission for public hearing, required public notice, and distribution to relevant boards and departments.

Motion to approve the revised amendments dated March 10, 2026. A friendly amendment was accepted to revise section formatting, update citation punctuation, and include the approval date (as described). Voice vote unanimous in favor.

(Draft ordinance update available with meeting minutes at waterfordct.org)

Mar. 30, 2026 Public Hearing and Special Meeting. No comments from the public. Public hearing was closed at 6:10pm. During the special meeting following the hearing, there was a motion to report the issue out of committee with the recommendation that the RTM adopt the revised ordinance **Section 3.08.030 Purchase categories – Bids/proposals required – Specifications authorized** to reflect Public Act 25-92. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Erica Casper

Chair, Legislation & Administration Standing Committee



Substitute Senate Bill No. 1184

Public Act No. 25-92

***AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD FOR SEALED BIDDING
ON CERTAIN MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 7-148v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any municipal charter or any special act to the contrary, any municipality may, by ordinance, establish requirements for competitive bidding for the award of any contract or the purchase of any real or personal property by the municipality. Such ordinance may provide that, except as otherwise required by any provision of the general statutes, sealed bidding shall not be required for contracts or purchases having a value less than or equal to an amount established in the ordinance, which amount shall not be greater than [twenty-five] thirty-five thousand dollars. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to invalidate any ordinance enacted by a municipality prior to October 1, 1989. Nothing in this section and no ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall be construed to limit the ability of a municipality to enter into a contract pursuant to section 4a-53a.

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1184

Governor's Action:
Approved July 1, 2025

3.08.030 - Purchase categories—Bids/proposals required—Specifications authorized.



A. Public competitive bidding and purchases of material and equipment and services will be established and administered, pursuant to CGS § 7-148v(a), at the following level:

- 1A.** For purchases exceeding ~~thirty~~twenty-five thousand dollars, a formal bid process is required as authorized in subsection B of Section 3.08.020 and Section 3.08.040.
- 2B.** ~~For purchases less than or equal to~~ Under ~~thirty~~twenty-five thousand dollars, the town purchasing agent's operating rules shall govern ~~all other the~~ purchasing transactions, and may allow for local vendor preferences as established under the operating rules.

~~(R.T.M. XX-XX-XX)~~ Amend. of 4-5-21; Amend. of 12-18-18(1); Amend. of 10-7-13; Amend. of 6-1-15(1); R.T.M. 10-6-97 (part);¹ R.T.M. 12-5-94 (part);¹ R.T.M. 6-6-88;¹ R.T.M. 4-4-88;¹ prior code § 2-39)

3.08.030 - Purchase categories—Bids/proposals required—Specifications authorized.



Public competitive bidding and purchases of material and equipment and services will be established and administered, pursuant to CGS § 7-148v(a), at the following level:

- A. For purchases exceeding thirty-five thousand dollars, a formal bid process is required as authorized in subsection B of Section 3.08.020 and Section 3.08.040.
- B. For purchases less than or equal to thirty-five thousand dollars, the town purchasing agent's operating rules shall govern the purchasing transactions, and may allow for local vendor preferences as established under the operating rules.

(R.T.M. 4-6-26; Amend. of 4-5-21; Amend. of 12-18-18(1); Amend. of 10-7-13; Amend. of 6-1-15(1); R.T.M. 10-6-97 (part); R.T.M. 12-5-94 (part); R.T.M. 6-6-88; R.T.M. 4-4-88; prior code § 2-39)