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**Sponsor:** County Manager's Office, Property Tax and Records & Election Services

**Meeting Date:** 1/4/2022

**Title:** Contracts with Press Publications, Inc. and Medianews Group, Inc dba St. Paul Pioneer Press for 2022 Newspaper Publications

**File Number:** 2021-720

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**Background and Rationale:**

Annually, a competitive solicitation is released for official publication services required of Ramsey County for the subsequent year. Minnesota Statutes require various official publications of Ramsey County and define the requirements of official newspapers as indicated below:

Minnesota State Statutes Chapter 395 of the 1990 Legislature, which amends Minnesota Statute §331.A.02, Subd 1. Requirements for a Qualified Newspaper, and Minnesota Statute §331A.04 require the following:

- publication of a political subdivision's public notices, including the official proceedings of the county board, in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in the county with its "known office of issue" within the political subdivision.
- the publisher must also do its typographic, composition, and presswork in Ramsey County.
- awarding of the contract is to be made at the county board's first regular session each year.

Minnesota Statute §375.17 requires Ramsey County's 2022 Financial Statement to be published in the newspaper designated by the Ramsey County Board as the Official Newspaper for such publication, and in a newspaper of general circulation located in a different municipality in the county than the Official Newspaper.

Minnesota Statute §§279.09-279.10 and 279.13 as amended requires publication in the newspaper designated annually by the Ramsey County Board the List of Real Estate Taxes Remaining Delinquent on the first day of January.

Minnesota Statute §281.23 as amended requires publication of the Notice of Expiration of Redemption for the County of Ramsey.

For the year 2022, two proposals were received in response to the Request for Bids. The awards are required to be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder - based on the lowest bid per publication type included in the solicitation, the awards being given to the two proposers:

- Press Publications, Inc., 4779 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, designated as the Official Newspaper for the following Ramsey County publications:
  - Official proceedings and other public notices; 2021 Financial Statement; and Notice of Expiration of Redemption in the Vadnais Heights Press in the amount of \$5.49 per column inch for the first insertion, and \$5.49 for subsequent insertions.
  - 2021 Financial Statement in the White Bear Press as the other newspaper of general circulation located in a different municipality in the county than the Official Newspaper in the amount of \$13.81 per column inch and \$13.81 per column inch for subsequent insertions.
- Medianews Group, Inc dba St. Paul Pioneer Press, PO Box 64831, Saint Paul, MN 55164,

designated as the Official Newspaper for the following Ramsey County publication:

- List of Real Estate Taxes Remaining Delinquent on the first day of January 2022 in the Pioneer Press in the amount of \$6.30 per column inch and \$6.30 per column inch for subsequent insertions.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Award a contract to Press Publications, Inc., 4779 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, as the designated Official Newspaper for the following Ramsey County publications:
  - Official proceedings of the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners and all notices for the year 2022; the 2021 Financial Statement; and the Notice of Expiration of Redemption in the Vadnais Heights Press in the amount of \$5.49 per column inch for the first insertion, and \$5.49 for subsequent insertions.
  - 2021 Financial Statement in the White Bear Press as the other newspaper of general circulation located in a different municipality in the County than the Official Newspaper, in the amount of \$13.81 per column inch and \$13.81 per column inch for subsequent insertions.
2. Authorize the Chair and the Chief Clerk to execute the contract with Press Publications, Inc.
3. Award a contract to Medianews Group, Inc dba St. Paul Pioneer Press, PO Box 64831, Saint Paul, MN 55164, as the designated Official Newspaper for publication of Ramsey County's List of Real Estate Taxes Remaining Delinquent on the first day of January 2022 in the Pioneer Press in the amount of \$6.30 per column inch and \$6.30 per column inch for subsequent insertions.
4. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the contract with Medianews Group, Inc dba St. Paul Pioneer Press.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By:   
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board