

DRAFT
State of Connecticut
Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB)
West Haven Committee
Special Meeting
State Board of Regents Boardroom, Ground Level,
61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, December 6, 2018
9:00a.m. – 10:00a.m.

The following link is to the MARB website. All meeting handouts can be located on this website, along with future meetings dates, agendas and minutes:

<http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2998&q=599332>

Members in attendance: Secretary Benjamin Barnes, Deputy Treasurer Lawrence Wilson (designee of State Treasurer Denise Nappier), Patrick Egan, David Walker

Staff: Robert Dakers (OPM), Julian Freund (OPM), Alison Fisher (OPM), Amy Tibor (OPM), Riju Das (OTT)

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks by Secretary Ben Barnes

Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Chairman Barnes stated that the Memorandum of Agreement with the City of West Haven has been drafted and is undergoing legal review at OPM.

II. Approval of Minutes: October 23, 2018

Chairman Barnes requested a motion to approve the October 23, 2018 meeting minutes. A motion was made (Wilson) and seconded (Walker). The minutes were approved.

III. Review and Discussion re: Plan for FY2018 Financial Audit

In response to a request from the committee during the November meeting, the City prepared a timeline for completing the FY18 audit and presented it to the committee. The City anticipates completing the audit by the end of February. Mr. Cicatelli noted that the City has had a practice of closing on the third week of September which routinely results in delays in completion of the audit. This was further delayed by the ransomware attack experienced by the City this year. He indicated that the City has closed out FY 2018 and run its trial balance. Some discussion followed regarding the role that Anthem has had in the delay with the 2018 audit. It was noted that while some issues with tracking current year health claims may be attributable to Anthem, the audit should not have been directly affected, and there has not been a large number of requests from other towns. Several members suggested that the Mayor contact Anthem's CEO or have the City's auditor contact Anthem's auditor to help resolve the issues. Mr. Egan pointed out that the City Charter contains other annual reporting requirements beyond the audited financial statements. Chairman Barnes asked if an audit of insurance benefits eligibility has been conducted to which the mayor responded yes. Mr. Walker asked if a payroll

audit has been conducted to which the mayor responded no. The mayor acknowledged that the City has payroll issues which are being addressed through training and revisions to credentialing.

Mr. Walker asked about the timing of restructuring funds and the likelihood of a delayed audit. Mr. Freund explained that while the MOA is still under review, it is likely that the restructuring funds related to FY 2018 would be paid by the end of the calendar year and that any subsequent payments related to FY 2019 would be withheld until the City submitted a completed audit and related management letter.

IV. Review, Discussion and Recommendations re: Plan for Fire Study

Mr. Milone presented a draft plan for completing the Fire Service Study. The City issued a RFP in October and is currently reviewing proposals from consultants. The proposals may be shortlisted to a group of finalists to be interviewed. The plan is to identify the preferred consultant by the end of the calendar year and update the MARB in January. The study schedule includes a presentation of a draft report to the MARB in April and submittal of the final report by the end of May.

V. Review, Discussion and Possible Action re: Nurses Federation and West Haven Board of Education Salary Reopener

Mr. Freund described the Settlement Agreement between the Nurses Federation and the West Haven Board of Education. The agreement is for a wage reopener that mirrors the agreement previously approved with the teacher's federation. The agreement provides for a 0% wage increase and no step advancement in FY 2019/20 and a 1% wage increase with no step advancement in FY 2020/21.

OPM staff had been proceeding as though this agreement required MARB approval, however it appears that may not be the case. The relevant provision in PA 17-2 gives the MARB the same authority to approve or reject labor contracts as the local legislative body. The nurse's union is one of a handful of union contracts that is negotiated by the Board of Education without review and approval by the City Council. Therefore, it appears that this agreement would not be subject to MARB approval. OPM legal counsel is currently reviewing the statutes. While it is not likely that this agreement is subject to MARB review, a motion was made (Walker) "to communicate to the full MARB no objection to the Settlement Agreement between the Nurses Federation and the West Haven Board of Education." Motion seconded (Wilson). Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Update: Labor Contract Negotiations re: MERA Timeframes

Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel for West Haven, informed the Board that the City is presently in negotiations with the white collar, blue collar, and firefighters union. Mr. Tiernan stated that the blue collar union had held a vote and rejected a TA.

Mr. Wilson asked if the Board has asked for information on benchmarking. Mr. Freund stated that the plan is for the Board to receive this information as contracts come before them. Mr. Wilson responded that this is OK so long as the Board gets the information.

VII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Egan to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.