



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Final & Approved
Minutes

Friday, April 12, 2019 Meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board
5th Floor Conference Room
18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut

Members Present:

Lawrence Fox, Chair
Thomas Ahneman
Alfred Bertoline
Bruce Buff
Charles Casella, Jr.
Albert Ilg
Donna Karnes
Salvatore Luciano
Stuart Mahler
Robert Rinker
Brenda Sisco

David L. Guay, Executive Director - ex-officio board member

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Lawrence Fox at 10:09 A.M.

2. Approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2019 Meeting

Motion made by Alfred Bertoline and seconded by Bruce Buff to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2019 Board meeting. All voted in favor with Thomas Ahneman and Brenda Sisco abstaining due to their absence from the March 8, 2019 meeting.

3. Report of the Privatization Contract Committee

Chair Fox reported that at the last meeting of the Committee, the Committee has a sense from the Board that the functional area that the Committee should review is IT.

The Committee directed a meeting with the new Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and that meeting was held. The Board's desire to work collaboratively with DAS in selecting an area to review was expressed. The Commissioner made no commitments at the meeting.

4. Report from the Sec. 4e-36 Contested Solicitations and Awards Subcommittee

Chair Rinker reported on two matters, the first regarding Dillon Stadium and Civic Mind LLC., which filed another contest on March 26, 2019. They filed another contest regarding an RFP that was issued in 2017. They brought to the Board contracts that were between CRDA and the city of Hartford and between the Hartford Athletics LLC and the city of Hartford. One for the operation of the stadium and the other allowing the Hartford Athletics to play in the stadium.

In a letter sent by Executive Director Guay on April 2, 2019, he responded concerning jurisdiction, since the contracts are with the city of Hartford and further citing statutes that demonstrated our lack of jurisdiction. The letter further stated that if Mr. Clynch of Civic Mind LLC believes we have jurisdiction than to please cite the authority. Mr. Clynch responded back on April 2, 2019 that he believes we are punting the ball. Executive Director Guay wrote back to him on April 4, 2019, stating the matter of Dillon stadium has received significant attention from the Board and the Section 4e-36 Contested Solicitations and Awards Subcommittee.

The Section 4e-36 Contested Solicitations and Awards Subcommittee has received a new contest on April 8, 2019 regarding a Department of Administrative Services (DAS) contract for custodial services from American Dream Clean LLC.

5. Work Group Reports

a. Report from Audit Work Group

Audit Work Group Chair Thomas Ahneman reported that the Work Group met this morning. The Work Group is currently auditing eleven agencies and have received seven responses to our initial request, with four agency responses outstanding. The outstanding agencies will be receiving a second notice for presenting the audit response before the May 10, 2019 meeting. Three agencies will be interviewed at the May 10, 2019 meeting of the Work Group.

6. Review of the Board's General Assembly and Administration activity

Chair Fox initiated discussion on the review of the Board's General Assembly and Administration activity. Chair Fox expressed that we have been very active in advocating for the budget option submitted to the Office of Policy and Management. The budget option asked for filling of the Chief Procurement Officer position, an Accounts Examiner, trainer and Staff Attorney 1. Those positions would cost about \$360,000 above the Governor's proposed budget.

The Board testified before appropriations, with many members of the Board in attendance. Chair Fox stated that it has made an impression. Chair Fox further explained that we followed-up with the Appropriations work group. Chair Fox reported he has met with the Speaker of the House and with the Majority Leader of the House and with the Senate Chair of Appropriations and is setting up a meeting with the House Chair of Appropriations.

Chair Fox noted that we have had three meetings with the Secretary and staff of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and one meeting with the new Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Chair Fox reported that he has also had discussions with the Governor's Chief of Staff.

Chair Fox offered that the latest report by the Board on PSA's has resulted in people looking at this Board in a bipartisan way, because everyone wants to save money. Chair Fox reported that the Board has a meeting this afternoon with House Republican Leadership.

Chair Fox further offered that we will speak with whoever will have us. We are speaking about the fact that we cannot fulfill our mission because of underfunding and understaffing, and that it is an important mission.

Alfred Bertoline and Bruce Buff reviewed their meeting with OPM staff to go over sample data used in the Board's report. Both Mr. Bertoline and Mr. Buff still felt our data and analysis to still be credible. Further Mr. Bertoline and Buff indicated that the staff at OPM considered our report helpful and they intend to tighten the process and to provide training.

In concluding the discussion Chair Fox passed out an analysis of our statutory responsibilities, noting what we do and what we can't do. Chair Fox explained that we have been passing out this analysis to legislators.

7. Report on internship

Albert Ilg reported that he and Executive Director Guay interviewed seven excellent student candidates on Monday, April 8, 2019. Executive Director Guay explained that the successful candidate will research and then compile all of Connecticut's procurement and contracting Statutes, Regulations, General Letters, policies and individual Agency and general Governmental best practices in order to recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly a redesign and a streamlining of the repetitive, conflicting or obsolete provisions of law, policies and practices in the state procurement process.

8. Report on Department of Education MOU compliance

Executive Guay explained that in the meeting materials today is the submission of a training manual by the State Department of Education in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Board. The manual is provided this month for review by members for a vote of approval in May.

9. Other business

No other business raised.

10. Public comment.

No public comment.

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Salvatore Luciano and seconded by Charles Casella to adjourn. All voted in favor, the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted: David Guay