



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY  
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Final & Approved  
Minutes

Friday, October 8, 2021 - 10:00 A.M. Meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board  
Via Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Lawrence Fox, Chair

Thomas Ahneman

Alfred Bertoline

Bruce Buff

Lauren Gauthier

Albert Ilg

Donna Karnes

Stuart Mahler

Salvatore Luciano

Robert Rinker

Daniel Rovero

Jean Morningstar

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

Ryan Chester, Staff – 2021-2022 UConn Graduate Intern

1. Call to order

Chair Lawrence Fox called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

2. Approve the Minutes of the September 10, 2021 Meeting

Robert Rinker moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Alfred Bertoline. All voted in favor.  
Jean Morningstar abstained.

3. Board Funding

David Guay had nothing new to report.

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

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Subcommittee Chair Robert Rinker reported a contest was filed by Anthem concerning the Teacher's Retirement Board's RFP for retiree health insurance. Chair Rinker further reported on Anthem's contest which claimed there were changes to the RFP process during the actual process. The subcommittee found that Anthem's claims were not timely filed and did not comment on the merits. Anthem subsequently filed a 3<sup>rd</sup> contest.

#### 5. Privatization Contract Committee Report

Chair Fox reported that we have a recommendation to the board from the committee. David reported that the recommendation is to continue the review of the Bridge inspectors and include a new review, under 4e-16(i)1, of the transportation engineers.

Chair Larry reported that the Board is mandated to proactively look at one functional area of a contracted agency that is privatizing a service to determine if privatization is still the best way for the State to provide services. We started this process in 2017 with the bridge inspectors, reaching an agreement in May 2018. The Board and public should know the reason we have not done it is because it takes significant staff time and the pandemic slowed us down. Also, we have had a lot of complaints that we have been dealing with. Chair Fox informs the legislature of what we are doing and not doing that we are supposed to be doing.

We can do this review with a significant amount of cooperation from the contracting agency (DOT). Upon request, we may receive support from DAS or OPM. Based on that, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the board that we take on this project. If approved, the committee will meet with the commissioner to see how that can be done effectively. The committee is currently trying to meet with the commissioner to understand what happened with the hiring of bridge inspectors. Every time a state does contracting for state services, there ought to be a cost benefit analysis to evaluate how best to provide services cost-effectively.

Chair Fox motioned to accept the recommendation from the Privatization Committee under 4e-16(i)1, seconded by Albert Ilg

Discussion by Thomas Ahneman.

Salvatore Luciano and Lauren Gauthier commented on the motion process.

Albert Ilg withdrew his second and Chair Fox withdrew his motion.

Salvatore Luciano motioned to accept the recommendation from the Privatization Committee under 4e-16(i)1, seconded by Albert Ilg. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

6. Work Group Reports

a. Audit Work Group

Chair Thomas Ahneman has nothing to report.

b. Data Analysis Work Group

Chair Alfred Bertoline reported that the Data Analysis Work Group is continuing its work on the study of the use of MOUs and MOAs in the state. We have requested these agreements from organizations and are collecting those responses. We have also requested a meeting with the Attorney General's Office to get their input into our study.

Stuart Mahler asked for clarification about communications with OPM. Alfred Bertoline answered.

Graduate Intern Ryan Chester provided more information about the status of collecting responses.

7. Update from Connecticut Port Authority Review

Lauren Gauthier reported we requested new information from the CPA and received a response. Lauren Gauthier continued to give a timeline of the information we have available. Gauthier will be investigating further this RFP process.

Bruce Buff clarified the focus of the review is the procurement process of the CT Port Authority.

Chair Fox gave history of the Board reviewing the CPA including the legislature passing legislation granting the Board jurisdiction over the CPA. Our duty is to make sure contracting agencies follow the law, which now includes the Port Authority.

Lauren Gauthier commented that this Board provides a necessary service that no other agency provides.

Robert Rinker commented that the OPM undersecretary made a negative comment of the Board. This Board deserves praise and not the negative comments of the OPM undersecretary.

David Guay made a comment.

Stuart Mahler made a comment.

Salvatore Luciano made a comment.

8. Update from Mystic Oral School Review

David reported no new information, in contact with the AG's office to understand the Board's jurisdiction in this matter.

9. Other Business

Chair Fox introduced Gene Burk as the new Director of Procurement at DAS.

Gene Burk respects the work the Board does and will always be open to questions and cooperation with the Board.

10. Public Comment

Kevin Blacker of the public addressed the Board

Van Brown of the public addressed the Board

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Daniel Rovero, seconded by Bruce Buff. All voted in favor.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:11am

Respectfully submitted: Ryan Chester