

APPROVED
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD (MARB)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Hartford Subcommittee of the MARB

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, December 16, 2021 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Location: This was a virtual meeting. Meeting materials may be accessed at the following website:

[Municipal Accountability Review Board \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/marb)

Call-In Instructions:

Telephone Number: (860) 840-2075

Meeting ID: 868 806 987

Members in Attendance: Kimberly Kennison (OPM Secretary designee), Christine Shaw (State Treasurer designee), David Biller, Mark Waxenberg

City Officials in Attendance: Jennifer Hockenull, Rich Pokorski, Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Phillip Penn

OPM Staff in Attendance: Julian Freund

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

II. Approval of Minutes:

a. November 18, 2021 regular meeting

Ms. Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Mr. Biller. The minutes were approved unanimously with a spelling correction under Item I.

III. Review, Discussion and Possible Action: Labor Contract

a. Hartford Municipal Employees Association

The Hartford Municipal Employees Association represents approximately 140 current active employees. The contract with this group expired on June 30, 2021. A tentative agreement was signed for a contract term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. The MARB has the option of approving, rejecting or taking no action on the contract. If the MARB chooses to take action, it has until January 22 to do so. The City has submitted a summary explanation of tentative agreement, a financial analysis and comparables to similar groups in other municipalities. Ms. Hockenull provided an overview of the tentative agreement. The contract provides a 3% general wage increase in the first

year which is retroactive to July 1, 2021. There is no general wage increase in the second year. The City budgeted for 1.5% in the current year. Steps are also provided in both years of the agreement.

Mr. Waxenberg asked if the total increase, inclusive of steps, in FY 2022 is about 6%, and the incremental cost for the following year is about 2%. Ms. Hockenhull confirmed those figures. In the prior four-year contract provided no general wage increase, and step advancement in three of the four years.

Mr. Waxenberg made a motion, with a second by Mr. Biller, to recommend approval of the contract to the full MARB. The motion passed 4-0-0.

IV. Review and Discussion: Draft Scope of Services - BOE Health Insurance Consultant

Mr. Freund reviewed a proposed scope of services that will be the basis for selecting a consultant to provide analytical services related to the Hartford school district employee health benefits.

Mr. Waxenberg suggested adding specific references to retention and stop-loss fees, ASO fees, internal service funds, co-pays, and premium costs in the section outlining cost comparisons.

V. Review and Discussion: Information Request to BOE

A detailed information request which was based on requests submitted by Subcommittee members was included in the meeting materials and reviewed by the members. Superintendent Torres-Rodriguez noted that the district has already begun compiling the data. The district will also be able to address its process for verifying residency of students.

VI. Review and Discussion: Mitigation Measures Action Plan

Ms. Hockenhull provided an overview of the updated status of the City's budget mitigation measures. The City recently was awarded a COPS grant which provides funding for Police Officer wages for three years. The City has five years to expend the grant. The City is also applying for as many infrastructure grants as possible. Workers compensation claims appear to continue to be decreasing in number, though it is too early to quantify any resulting monetary savings. Fire and Police units will be implementing a similar process for workers compensation claims. The collections aging report shows that receivables over 120 days continue to decline.

VII. Other Related Business

None.

VIII. Adjourn

Mr. Biller made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Waxenberg. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.