



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Draft Minutes

Thursday, July 7, 2016 Special Meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board Privatization
Contract Committee

First Floor Conference Room, 999 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Members Present:

Claudia Baio, Chair

Charles W. Casella, Jr.

Lawrence Fox

Thomas G. Ahneman (via teleconference)

Brenda Sisco

Staff Present:

David L. Guay, Executive Director

Julia K. Lentini Marquis, Chief Procurement Officer

Non Committee Board Members Present:

Salvatore Luciano (via teleconference)

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Baio at 9:07 A.M.

2. Approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2016 Meeting

Chair Baio entertained a motion to approve the draft minutes of the March 11, 2016 State Contracting Standards Board Privatization Contract Committee meeting.

Motion made by Tom Ahneman and seconded by Charles Casella to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2016 State Contracting Standards Board Privatization Contract Committee meeting. All voted in favor with Lawrence Fox abstaining and the minutes of the March 11, 2016 meeting were approved.

3. Department of Transportation (DOT) bridge safety inspection review

Executive Director Guay described the printed package provided as all the material he could find in the records about the previous review and material received and acquired on the matter subsequently.

Committee members discussed with staff on how best to approach the review. Chief Procurement Officer Julia Marquis explained the authority under which the committee will conduct the review. Ms. Marquis also reminded the members of the prohibition against ex parte communication.

Chief Procurement Officer Marquis volunteered to re-provide her summary of the current bridge inspector contracts and to ask a representative of the Department of Transportation to provide an overview of the bridge inspection program and universe.

By consensus the committee determined that the first step would be to review the material provided by Executive Director Guay in order to help define the process, questions to be asked and provide answers and facts already known and the goal to be achieved at the next meeting.

By consensus the committee set the next meeting for Noon on August 12, 2016 right after the Board's regular August meeting and further determined that it begin to meet regularly. Executive Director Guay indicated that December 2016 has been a suggested goal for completion of the bridge inspection review in discussions of the Board's FY 2017 Strategic Plan draft.

4. DORS privatization of interpreter services

Non Committee Board member Salvatore Luciano raised with the Committee and explained that the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) was in the process of closing the sign language interpreting services unit by July 15, 2016. The agency will no longer be direct providers of sign language interpreting services and will instead rely upon private providers of sign language interpreting services. Mr. Luciano raised issues of credentialing, diminishment of service, and the question of whether the service is a core governmental function. Mr. Luciano believes that DORS should have come before the Board before the service is privatized. Ms. Marquis asked Mr. Luciano if part of the service had been previously privatized. Mr. Luciano acknowledged that part has been privatized for about fifteen years.

Ms. Marquis read to the Committee the definition of a privatization contract and raised the question of whether this action meets the definition.

Lawrence Fox asked what our authority on this is. Ms. Marquis responded CGS Sec. 4e-16 and 4e-7 and 4e-3(b). Ms. Marquis indicated that inquiries could be made of DORS.

Mr. Luciano expressed his frustration that the closing of the unit will happen within eight days and real concern for the community previously served by State employee interpreters.

5. Western Connecticut State University contract with Presidio

Chair Baio received consensus from the Committee to have Mr. Luciano raise a second issue out of order of the agenda regarding a privatization contract held by Western Connecticut State University with an Information Technology firm by the name of Presidio. Mr. Luciano believes that the contract may be for or used by the rest of Higher Education and that the contract provides for services already provided by state employees.

Ms. Marques explained that Mr. Luciano had raised this issue with her prior to the last Board meeting and asked her to make inquiries. Ms. Marquis spoke with the Director of Contracts, Mark Case at Western Connecticut State University. He explained that it was a divisive issue with the unions and that the decision was directed by George Claffey, WCSU's Chief Information Officer.

4. DORS privatization of interpreter services (continued)

Brenda Sisco reopened discussion by asking what we do. Mr. Fox offered that it may be appropriate to write to the Commissioner that we understand x, y and z and that the agency has an obligation to follow the law on privatization. Ms. Marquis explained the realm of options the Committee has. Ms. Marquis suggested an appropriate course of action would be further investigation.

Chair Baio summarized the discussion held, that an existing contract has possibly been expanded and thus raising the question of whether the agency should have performed and submitted to the Board a cost benefit analysis and business case and that Mr. Fox is suggesting we send a request for further information.

By consensus the Committee directed Ms. Marquis to send a request to the Commissioner of DORS asking for more information.

5. Western Connecticut State University contract with Presidio (continued)

The Committee reviewed with Ms. Marquis the definition of a privatization contract. Ms. Sisco suggested that the Committee should do the same as in the DORS issue and seek more information and clarification from Western Connecticut State University. Other Committee members agreed and Ms. Marquis agreed to undertake the inquiry.

6. Other business

No other business raised.

7. Adjournment

Motion made by Lawrence Fox and seconded by Brenda Sisco to adjourn. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 A.M.

Respectfully submitted: David L. Guay