



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY  
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Final & Approved

Friday, June 9, 2017 Meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board Privatization

Committee

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut

Members Present

Claudia Baio, Chair  
Thomas Ahneman  
Charles Casella  
Lawrence Fox

1. [Call to order](#)

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 A.M. by Chair Baio.

2. [Approve the minutes of the April 7, 2017 meeting](#)

Motion made by Thomas Ahneman and seconded by Charles Casella to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2017 meeting. All voted in favor, with Lawrence Fox abstaining due to being absent from the April 7, 2017 meeting.

3. [Department of Transportation \(DOT\) Bridge Safety Inspection Review](#)

Chair Baio noted that Executive Director Guay had placed in the meeting materials the response from Commissioner Redeker from the request for further information and to place the cost benefit analysis in the OPM template.

Committee member Larry Fox noted the significant savings noted by the Department of Transportation (DOT) hiring state employees to do some of the bridge inspection work rather than contract out.

Mr. Fox suggested we have been reviewing this subject for a long time and rather than drill farther down into the validity of the numbers, the contribution the Committee can make is to support the agency that reports a significant savings and to assist in implementing the savings.

Mr. Fox further noted that the Department of Transportation wants to implement this over time. Mr. Fox suggested we ought to understand the plan of implementation and monitor it.

Mr. Fox suggested that the Committee wait for suggestions from the Work Groups on which contract to review next and move on from this review.

Executive Director Guay suggested a communication strategy to support DOT in bringing the work back in house.

Mr. Ahneman raised concerns with the burden, fringe and overhead figures provided. Mr. Ahneman raised a further concern with the plan about the ability to hire entry level positions and seasoned civil engineers.

Chair Baio summarized the questions before the Committee. Mr. Ahneman would like to vet the numbers concerning burden, fringe and overhead.

In discussion with Mr. Fox, Mr. Ahneman states he does not believe the burden, fringe and overhead figures provided and that the proposed savings are inflated.

Mr. Casella suggested another question to be answered is any of the bridge inspection work is federally funded.

Mr. Fox suggested a different approach to the questions being asked. Mr. Fox noted that the DOT is proposing a sort of down payment on proposing to bring on five new bridge inspectors per year and would like the Board to support this initial implementation of the plan and then further understand the extent of the savings as raised by Mr. Ahneman.

Mr. Casella drew the Committee's attention to the C.G.S Sec. 4e-16 that Executive Director Guay provided in the meeting material. The Committee reviewed the Statute. Upon review it was noted that the dates of the contract renewals is information the Committee and the Board require.

Mr. Ahneman focused the Committee's discussion on which contract work is planned to be brought back in house to DOT. Asking which contract is the subject of the plan's first five suggested hires.

Chair Baio offered that the Committee propose to the Board that we send a letter to the Department of Transportation that we support their budget proposal for five bridge inspector positions to be added and filled in the first year of the plan provided. The letter should ask additional questions about the overhead, burden and fringe and whether any of the positions are federally funded, a listing of the renewal dates for the bridge inspector

contracts and which contract is the subject of this year's proposal for five new positions and how will the additional positions affect that contract.

Mr. Casella objected to stating that we support the DOT proposal for the first year. Mr. Casella believes that all the work should be brought in house and the 49 total positions in the plan be immediately established and filled.

Mr. Ahneman believes that the Cost Benefit Analysis has some deficiencies, which he would like addressed and answered.

Mr. Fox expressed a desire to vote for approval of the DOT plan. Chair Baio indicated that she was not ready to vote until the question of the specific bridge inspection contract is answered. Mr. Fox accepted Chair Baio's position.

The Committee achieved consensus in agreeing with the DOT plan for five new positions in the first year of the plan.

Chair Baio will prepare a draft letter to DOT for the Committee to review at the next meeting of the Committee to be approved and sent by the full Board.

Motion made by Thomas Ahneman and seconded by Lawrence Fox for Chair Baio to prepare a draft letter to DOT, outlining the Committees concerns, for the Committee to review at the next meeting of the Committee and to be approved and sent by the full Board. All voted in favor.

#### 4. [Public Comment](#)

No public comment.

#### 5. [Other business](#)

Mr. Casella noted that several other DOT issues have been raised and Mr. Casella discussed when the Committee would address those issues.

#### 6. [Adjournment](#)

Motion made by Lawrence Fox and second by Charles Casella to adjourn. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: David Guay

