



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Final & Approved
Minutes

Friday, March 9, 2018 Meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board
5th Floor Conference Room
18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut

Members Present:

Claudia Baio, Chair
Thomas Ahneman– via conference telephone
Alfred Bertoline
Bruce Buff
Charles Casella, Jr.
Lawrence Fox
Donna Karnes – via conference telephone
Albert Ilg
Stuart Mahler
Jean Morningstar
Robert Rinker

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

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Baio at 10:00 A.M.

Without objection Chair Baio took the opportunity to appoint Albert Ilg to the Data Analysis Work Group

2. Approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2018 Meeting

Motion made by Robert Rinker and seconded by Alfred Bertoline to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2018 Board meeting. All voted in favor, with Jean Morningstar abstaining due to her absence at the February 9, 2018 meeting.

3. Report from Privatization Contract Committee

Privatization Contract Committee Chair Baio informed the Board that the next meeting will be held directly after the Board's meeting. Chair Baio had hoped Robert Dakers from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) would attend to address a few outstanding questions, but canceled at the last minute.

4. Report of the Contested Solicitations and Awards Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Robert Rinker reported that the subcommittee has no matters before it.

5. Work Group Reports

Thomas Ahneman joined the meeting via teleconference phone.

a. Report from Data Analysis Work Group

Chair Alfred Bertoline reported on visits with the staff of the Majority Leader, the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the House and the presentation before the Appropriations Subcommittee. An Opinion Editorial (Op-Ed) was written and submitted to the Hartford Courant for publication. Chair Bertoline noted that the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth report has been released. Chair Bertoline has gone through the report in detail and praised Donna Karnes for efforts, as the conclusions in the Data Analysis report appeared in the report. Chair Bertoline offered if the report is adopted the Board can play a major role. General discussion followed on the next possible study to conduct.

Chair Bertoline suggested getting a list of all contracts coming due in fiscal year 2019 sorted high to low and pick out the top one hundred and say these should go out and plan your budget on asking for a 10% reduction on the renewal or new contract and we could quantify that.

Robert Rinker raised the issue of approximately one thousand master contracts and asked in those contracts is there room for savings. Mr. Bertoline offered that is a whole separate area of study and on the list to study. Bruce Buff offered that the area of master contracts is an easy fix.

b. Report from Audit Work Group

Executive Director Guay offered to report for Audit Work Group Chair Thomas Ahneman. The full Board approved the current audit status for all the agencies audited. Two dates have been agreed upon to conduct interviews of the agencies; April 10th and 17th. Chair Ahneman has approved the letter to go out to the agencies requesting the interview.

Mr. Rinker noted that there is an outstanding issue in the triennial audits, in that the University of Connecticut claims to be exempt from the Board's jurisdiction to audit the University. Chair Ahneman agreed to take a look at the matter with the Audit Work Group.

Executive Director Guay reminded the Board that the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center will receive interview invitation letters.

6. Review of C.G.S. Section 4e-7

Executive Director Guay informed the Board that he placed a copy of the C.G.S. Section 4e-7 in their meeting materials along with a copy of the Connecticut Uniform Administrative Procedures Act in preparation for a possible action against the State Department of Education (SDE). Mr. Guay explained the multiple step process. Mr. Guay asked Chair Baio and she has agreed to recuse herself to act as Counsel to Mr. Guay. Chair Baio recapped her email appointing Lawrence Fox, Jean Morningstar and Brenda Sisco as the Hearing Officers, in the event a Hearing is held. Mr. Guay has also contacted the Board's Assistant Attorney General of the possibility of a Hearing. Board members discussed the process and possible outcomes.

7. Other business

No other business raised.

8. Public Comment

Fred Chojnicki a retired Department of Transportation employee also addressed the Board offering himself as a public source of information. Mr. Chojnicki also referenced the New York State procurement process as a possible best practice. Mr. Chojnicki also provided his perspective on why consultants are chosen.

9. Adjournment

Motion made by Lawrence Fox and seconded by Jean Morningstar to adjourn. All voted in favor, the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 A.M.

Respectfully submitted: David Guay