



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY  
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Final & Approved  
Minutes

Friday, April 13, 2018 Meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut

Members Present:

Claudia Baio, Chair  
Alfred Bertoline  
Bruce Buff  
Charles Casella, Jr.  
Lawrence Fox  
Donna Karnes  
Albert Ilg  
Stuart Mahler  
Jean Morningstar  
Robert Rinker  
Brenda Sisco

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

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Baio at 10:04 A.M.

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

Motion made by Alfred Bertoline and seconded by Lawrence Fox to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2018 Board meeting. All voted in favor, with Brenda Sisco abstaining due to her absence at the March 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 expects Robert Dakers from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will attend to address a few outstanding questions.

Stuart Mahler expressed his belief that the Department of Transportation (DOT) business case has been automatically approved since it is past the 60 day period for Board approval. Chair Baio explained her disagreement. Expressing that the 60 day period does not apply to the Board selected area for review. Chair Baio reviewed the current status of the DOT Bridge Safety contract review.

Robert Rinker added that the cost benefit analysis (CBA) template was approved long ago and that the normalized cost for pensions has actually decreased due to the 2017 Pension agreement. Mr. Rinker suggested an adjustment to the CBA template at a later date. Mr. Rinker added that the business case is really a statement by the agency on what they plan to do and is the basis for justifying privatization under our statutes. The Privatization Contract Committee heard the business case from DOT to bring back in-house certain functions of bridge inspections.

Brenda Sisco added that members of the Privatization Contract Committee had outstanding issues that they still wished to address.

#### 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

##### a. Report from Data Analysis Work Group

Chair Alfred Bertoline reported on the completion of the Work Group's first report and on visits with Legislative Leadership. An Opinion Editorial (Op-Ed) was written and submitted as well as a letter to the editor. Mr. Bertoline reports very little traction from the report.

Chair Bertoline noted that in meetings with Legislative Leadership a recurring question was how you came up with the savings numbers. The response was from our professional personal experience. We were asked if we could come up with data to support the premise. The Work Group has considered how to do that and concluded that it is not possible, primarily because we would need agencies to volunteer to cooperate in a study, which only prove they are doing something wrong as well as a very long process to get a sampling.

Chair Bertoline added that the Pennsylvania report cited in the Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth may give some help to verifying our estimate of savings.

Chair Bertoline reported that the Data Analysis Work Group will be meeting today to continue discussion on where to go. Chair Bertoline continued with identifying an area of concern for study, which is the waiver or exemption process from competitive bidding.

Brenda Sisco urged Chair Bertoline to have his work group meet with representatives of OPM.

Bruce Buff offered that the Data Analysis Work Group will be benchmarking with neighboring States. Mr. Buff has contacted and discussed our issues with the New York State Director of Procurement, who is willing to come discuss the successes they have.

b. Report from Audit Work Group

Robert Rinker reported for Audit Work Group as Chair Thomas Ahneman is not in attendance. The Work Group met on April 10, 2018 and conducted interviews with:

- Department of Administrative Service – Division of Construction Services
- Department of Economic & Community Development
- Connecticut State Colleges and Universities
- University of Connecticut & the University of Connecticut Health Center

The Work Group met this morning and reviewed the Work Group's process so far. The Work Group was originally scheduled to meet Tuesday, April 17, 2018 but decided to postpone the meeting until Tuesday, May 8, 2018. The Work Group still had agencies that had not responded to the request to come in and interview and the Department of Transportation (DOT) that has not responded to the audit request. The Work Group will be communicating with the DOT to have them respond by May 4, 2018 or receive a recommendation to the Board from the Audit Work Group that the DOT is noncompliant. The Work Group has received and reviewed material from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) that have and are being reviewed and an interview scheduled. In particular interest to the Work Group is the DDS cost effectiveness evaluations. The Work Group gave preliminary approval to the DDS audit and recommends the same to the Board. The Work Group also had the State Board of Education (CSDE) scheduled for April 17, 2018 but because of ongoing discussion under the Board's Section 4e-7 C.G.S. action thought it best to postpone.

Chair Rinker reported that at this morning's meeting the Work Group reflected on the interviews conducted and focused on four areas of concern.

- Issues concerning the audit questionnaire and the refinements necessary.
- The crafting of the final report.
- Issues surrounding competitive versus noncompetitive bidding.
- Issue of cost effectiveness evaluations

Chair Rinker noted an interesting item from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and how they ask vendors off a master contract to give them a better deal.

Jean Morningstar motioned and Alfred Bertoline seconded to approve the preliminary compliance report for the Department of Developmental Services subject to a response or interview. All voted in favor.

6. Other business

No other business raised.

7. Public Comment

Fred Chojnicki a retired Department of Transportation employee also addressed the Board.

Travis Woodward also addressed the Board.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Robert Rinker and seconded by Alfred Bertoline to adjourn. All voted in favor, the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 A.M.

Respectfully submitted: David Guay