



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Final & Approved
Minutes

Friday, July 9, 2021 Meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Conference Rooms G006D & G007E

Members Present:

Lawrence Fox, Chair
Alfred Bertoline – Via conference telephone
Bruce Buff
Lauren Gauthier
Albert Ilg
Donna Karnes – Via conference telephone
Stuart Mahler
Jean Morningstar
Robert Rinker
Daniel Rovero
Brenda Sisco – Via conference telephone

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

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Lawrence Fox at 10:12 A.M.

2. Approve the Minutes of the June 11, 2021 Meeting

Motion made by Lauren Gauthier and seconded by Bruce Buff to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2021 Board meeting. All voted in favor

3. Board Funding and other Legislation

Chair Fox opened discussion, commenting upon the meeting last month in which the Board thought funding for the vacant Chief Procurement officer and four new positions was provided. Funding was lost in the budget implementer bill.

Chair Fox reported he met with the Governor for an hour and one half after passage of the implementer bill to advocate for funding in Fiscal 2022 through other means such as the through the Finance Advisory Council.

Donna Karnes reported on her conversation with Senator Bob Duff.

Chair Fox further commented about the need to continue to advocate for adequate funding.

Stuart Mahler commented on the possible elimination of the Board and expressed his thanks to Chair Fox for meeting with the Governor.

Lauren Gauthier spoke about the Governor's opposition to funding the Board.

Robert Rinker commented on the role the Section 4e-36 Contested Solicitations and Awards Subcommittee plays in keeping the State out of litigation, but an attorney is still necessary to move beyond the bare minimal work of volunteers. Mr. Rinker further commented that the Board's audits, though of minimal scope, have identified common deficiencies, such as the lack of training, which could have been addressed with the hiring of a trainer.

Daniel Rovero commented about the small amount of money involved for such a good thing.

Lauren Gauthier commented about a more active role with the Legislature.

Bruce Buff commented upon the Governor's policy eliminating accountability and oversight.

Chair Fox commented that he is not opposed to OPM and DAS receiving more people and takes pride that in some ways the Board is responsible for both OPM and DAS's focus on procurement. Chair Fox reiterated that the success of OPM and DAS does not eliminate the Board's needs, no duplication of roles or services.

Daniel Rovero asked Chair Fox what the Board could do?

Chair Fox offered that there is opportunity in the September Legislative Session.

Bruce Buff commented that PSA's and POS's are being placed by non-experts.

Robert Rinker spoke about the Board's success with the Dillon Stadium study and CRDA.

Alfred Bertoline spoke about the Board's success in highlighting the need for competitive bidding, the creation of three-year procurement plans and added, "who's going to do it, if we don't?"

Albert Ilg commented on how special the relationship is with the public.

4. Fiscal year 2022 Board business

Chair Fox asked Executive Director Guay to begin discussion. Executive Director Guay explained the number of tasks currently before the Board.

- Advocate for Funding
- Continue Connecticut Port Authority review
- Initiate Review of Mystic Oral School
- FY 20 Audit
- Data Analysis Study (subject to be chosen)

Robert Rinker suggested inviting constituents of the Board to a public hearing. By consensus the Board decided to investigate the possibility of a public hearing of vendors and constituents of the Board. The October meeting of the Board suggested as a possible date.

After discussion the Board decided to review Department of Transportation Public Private Partnership projects in the fall of 2021.

Alfred Bertoline commented on the opportunities before the Data Analysis Work Group.

- Studying the suspension of competitive bidding by executive order
- Competitive bidding review
- Progress review on PSA's
- Federal funding issues
- MOU and MOA review
- Review of DAS PSA master contracts

After discussion, motion made by Lauren Gauthier and seconded by Albert Ilg for the Board to focus on the following in Fiscal Years 2022.

- Continue study of the Connecticut Port Authority
- Public Hearing of vendors and Board constituents
- Review the DOT and the agency response to Bill 920
- Review MOU and MOA's
- Conduct FY20 Audits

All voted in favor

5. Other Business

Robert Rinker asked that the Board, in light of David's upcoming retirement to have an Executive Session at the August meeting to discuss personnel matters, Chair Fox agreed.

Lauren Gauthier raised the issue of the Mystic Oral School complaint received by the Board. Executive Director Guay was directed to look into the matter.

6. Public Comment

Travis Woodward, a Department of Transportation Engineer and President of CSEA SEIU Local 2001 P-4 Bargaining Unit addressed the Board.

Kevin Blacker addressed the Board.

7. Adjournment

Motion made by Lauren Gauthier and seconded by Daniel Rovero to adjourn. All voted in favor, the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: David Guay