



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Draft
Minutes

Friday, June 10, 2022 - 10:00 A.M. Meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Members Present:

Lawrence Fox, Chair

Thomas Ahneman

Al Bertoline

Bruce Buff

Lauren Gauthier

Albert Ilg

Donna Karnes

Stuart Mahler

Jean Morningstar

Robert Rinker

Brenda Sisco

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

1. Call to order

Chair Fox called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

2. Approve the minutes of the May 13, 2022, meeting

Alfred Bertoline motioned to the minutes of May 13, 2022. Bruce Buff seconded. All voted in favor.

Chair Fox followed the minutes with an update on the new positions. The new Executive Director will probably not be in place as of July 1, 2022. Executive Director Guay has applied for a Temporary Worker Retiree (TWR) position to assist in the transition. Executive Director Guay added that the position request forms have been drafted and submitted for review.

Due to the likelihood that the new Executive Director will not be onboard by the July 8, 2022, without objection, Chair Fox is canceling the July meeting of the full Board.

3. Sec. 4e-36 Contested Solicitations and Awards Subcommittee Report

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Subcommittee Chair Robert Rinker stated the Subcommittee has no matters to pending before it.

4. Privatization Contract Committee Report

Acting Chair Robert Rinker reported for the recused Chair Lawrence Fox. The current privatization case concerns the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and a program known as the Hilltop program. Which is a residential program for young adults with substance abuse issues. DMHAS lost the lease and decided to contract the work out. The work had been performed by members of 1199. The union filed a petition for a review. Acting Chair Rinker expressed that his hope was to handle this in a similar fashion as the C.G.S. Sec. 4e-36 Subcommittee in which is side responds to the other's response until the facts and positions are known and then we hold a hearing. We've received responses from DMHAS but not from 1199. Acting Chair further explained that he wanted to move things forward and begin to construct the narrative by writing to DMHAS with a series of questions.

General discussion held on the application of law, process, and circumstances.

5. Executive Director Remarks

First, I want to say "thank you" to my wife Kathy and to our children Elizabeth and Christopher for putting up with the long and unpredictable hours of work that I needed to help move the goals of this board forward to ensure that Connecticut has an honest, transparent, and clean State government.

When Governor Malloy reconstituted the Board in 2013, named Judge Claudia Baio as Chair, and asked me to join her as the Board's first Executive Director, I could not imagine how far we would come. I am grateful to her for allowing me the opportunity to collaborate with her and her willingness to hear my opinions (whether she agreed with me or not!).

To the members of the Board past and present, John Quincy Adams' quote on leadership is a fitting descriptive of each and every one of you.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." I honor all of you as leaders of this board.

You have honored me in allowing me to call you colleague and friend.

I'd like to especially recognize our Chair Larry and Bob, I've worked so closely with these two great men, they are like family.

I'd also like to recognize and thank the citizen supporters of this Board. Citizen participation in our government is not for the faint of heart but it is a critical component of our democracy. If I could, I would give each and every one of you a good citizenship medal.

I think it is inevitable that a time like this that we reflect about how we have conducted ourselves and what we have accomplished.

I have been inspired by the words of the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, the Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church who was a classmate of my wife's at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. As a child, Bishop Curry recalls his father (also a minister) saying, "The Lord didn't put us here just to consume the oxygen."

In the 2020 Hobart and William Smith Colleges Commencement Address, Bishop Curry urged the colleges' graduates to lead "Lives of consequence. Lives that matter. Lives that make a difference for the good. Lives lived for purposes greater than self. Lives that are lived for more than mere consumption and acquisition. The Lord didn't put you here to just consume the oxygen."

Serving this Board has been the culmination of my personal efforts to lead a life with meaningful contributions to my State and to its citizens who count on the State Contracting Standards Board to provide them with an honest, transparent, and clean State government.

Thank you.

Chair Fox noted that the Board members would have more to say at the luncheon to follow the meeting. For the record Chair Fox did want to state for the record that, the State of Connecticut has been very very fortunate to have you as the Executive Director of the Board. You really held this Board together, and in fact our ability to function without a lot staff occurred because of your idea. The idea to set up work groups that could actually get some work done. We are so grateful for your service.

Robert Rinker asked that his remarks be included in the minutes in total.

Donna Karnes remarked that a true leader leaves us behind, but will be in our hearts.

6. Other business

Lauren Gauthier queried whether the Attorney General had responded to our request for a formal opinion. Executive Director responded no.

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjournment

Discussion prior to adjournment on what type of meetings will be held in the future. Chair Fox stated that we have the option to meet in person or virtually, or possibly a hybrid.

Lauren Gauthier motioned to adjourn; Robert Rinker seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:11 A. M.

Respectfully submitted: David Guay, Executive Director