



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY  
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Minutes  
State Contracting Standards Board  
Regular Meeting  
Friday, March 10, 2023 - 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.  
Location: *Virtual Only*

Members Present:

Lawrence Fox, Chair  
Thomas G. Ahneman  
Alfred Bertoline  
Bruce Buff  
Lauren Gauthier  
Albert Ilg  
Donna Karnes  
Salvatore Luciano  
Stuart Mahler  
Robert Rinker  
Daniel Rovero  
Brenda Sisco  
Gregory F. Daniels, Esq., Executive Director, ex-officio

Staff Present:

Jonathan M. Longman, Chief Procurement Officer  
Samson F. Anderson, Research Analyst  
Paul B. Netland Jr, Accounts Examiner  
David L. Guay, Temporary Worker Retiree  
Christopher Weishaupt, Investigative Attorney

1. Call to Order

Chairman Fox called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. Approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2023, regular meeting

Albert Ilg motioned to approve the meeting minutes of February 10, 2023, and Lauren Gauthier seconded the motion. The minutes of the February 10, 2023 regular meeting was approved and adopted with Thomas G. Ahneman abstaining.

3. Staff Reports

- a. *Chief Procurement Officer Report – Jonathan Longman*  
i. Training Updates

- Carmen Hufcut has taken the lead in researching different training options, starting with existing training systems already used by state agencies. Carmen continues to work diligently on developing a comprehensive Procurement training plan.
  - The staff is developing a survey to distribute across state government to collect information on the training gaps in the current training.
  - We requested an adjustment in funding, increasing the budget by approximately \$60,000 per year for training and certification efforts, which includes a Learning Management System (LMS) and any other related costs.
  - Staff are reviewing and discussing different LMS options with IT. The Staff is also collaborating with DAS, OPM, the Comptroller, and CORE team to determine what training information systems may already exist.
  - The Staff plans to present a training plan to the Board at the next regular meeting.
- ii. Other Updates
- Audits
    - Staff are meeting with the Comptroller's office to discuss using a flat-file out of their system for audits.
  - Paul is working on data gathering collection and analysis to create a report with recommendations to submit to the Audit/Data Analysis Workgroup.
  - The Staff is still working with the BITS team on securing a media clipping service.
- b. *Executive Director Report – Gregory F. Daniels, Esq.*
- i. Legislative Updates
- Raised Bill No. 1184, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Administrative Services Concerning State Contracting Requirements and Certain Procurement Thresholds.
    - More clarification/information needed on what is the impact on competitive bidding, women-owned businesses, and minority contractors.
  - Raised Bill No. 6867, An Act Concerning Negotiation for Certain State Contracts and Other Procurement Practices.
  - Jonathan added that Raised Bill No. 6867, An Act Concerning Competitive Negotiation for Certain State Contracts and Other Procurement Practices also attempts to raise the threshold on Personal Services Agreements.
  - Larry Fox planned to meet with John, Greg, and staff to determine if a special board meeting was necessary for the Board to decide whether it should take a position on any of the discussed raised bills.
  - Greg discussed the Appropriations subcommittee working session meeting with Government A) during which the staff requested approximately \$70,000 for funding of an administrative assistant position. He also shared that he had his public hearing before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee as it relates to his permanent appointment as Executive Director.

- ii. Other Updates
  - Operationally within the office, the staff is moving forward with building out workspace to allow for designated workspace for all Board staff. Currently, Board staff share a suite with the Board of Firearms and several other small agencies. The staff are borrowing cubicles from the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health. The staff's new cubicles, electrical, and data lines should be installed, delivered, and setup within 6-8 weeks.
4. Sec. 4e-36 Contested Solicitations and Awards Committee Report
  - a. Robert Rinker reported that there were no 4e-36 matters pending before the Committee to report.
5. Privatization Contract Committee Report
  - a. UConn Pending Matters
    - i. The Chairman reported that there are two pending UConn cases that the Committee and staff are working very hard on to conclude: (a) UConn Health Center and the teacher's union; and University of Connecticut at stores with CEUI. The Committee planned to report on the pending cases at this meeting pertaining, but due to the complicated nature of the issues, the Committee plans to delay reporting on such matters until the next Board meeting.
  - b. Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) Privatization Contract Petition
    - i. The DCP has petitioned the Committee for approval to enter into temporary privatization contracts for hearing officer services. They are requesting guidance in the process. The Committee will likely be ready to make a recommendation to the full Board at the next regular meeting or at an earlier special meeting. Jon Longman will be in discussions with the DCP.
  - c. The Chairman also noted the strategic goal discussed during the last Board meeting of the Committee prospectively examining at least one functional area that has been privatized at an agency annually to assess whether it should still be privatized or whether it should be done differently.
  - d. The Chairman discussed the desire of the Committee to review an agreement the Board reached several years ago with the Department of Transportation (DOT). The Agreement provided for the DOT to perform certain bridge inspections by State employed engineers versus by outsourcing this function. The Committee has information to believe that DOT has not been able to execute the agreement effectively, because they have not been able to hire 45 bridge inspectors. The Committee would like to understand what are the barriers to DOT being able to carry out the terms of the agreement (e.g., is it lack of engineering expertise, etc.).
6. Connecticut Port Authority Review Update
  - a. Robert Rinker reported on version 6 of an addendum to the Board's prior report on the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) (the "Addendum"), providing the context for drafting the Addendum after the Attorney General issued its January 24, 2023, opinion in response to the Board's March 17, 2022, letter requesting a formal opinion on CPA's ability to enter into public-private partnerships via their enabling statutes.

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- b. Chairman Fox added that the harbor development agreement entered into by the CPA occurred prior to the statute giving the Board jurisdiction over the CPA for two years. Chairman Fox also explained the importance of establishing guard rails for public-private partnerships to avoid instances in which taxpayer money is wasted due to lack of oversight of public-private partnerships. He concluded by reporting that the Committee does not believe that it was the intent of the Legislature to remove guardrails for quasi-public agencies entering into public-private partnerships.
  - c. There was a motion raised by Chairman Fox to adopt the Addendum.
  - d. The motion for the Board to adopt this Addendum passed with Thomas G. Ahneman opposing the motion.
7. Other Business
- a. None.
8. Public Comment
- a. Devin Marquez, Assistant Director of Procurement and Staff Attorney with DAS since 1995, offered his services to the Board.
  - b. Mr. Blacker, a citizen, noted that, it is his opinion that the attorney general did not answer the Board's question and requested the Board to exercise their powers, which gives them the ability to cancel a contract if it was executed in bad faith.
9. Adjournment
- a. Motion made by Thomas G. Ahneman to adjourn the meeting; Daniel Rovero seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on March 10, 2023, 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Carmen Hufcut, Trainer Specialist