



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY  
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

**Minutes**  
**State Contracting Standards Board**  
***Special Meeting***  
Thursday, March 23, 2023 - 10:00 A.M.  
Location: *Virtual Only*

Members Present:

Lawrence S. Fox, Chair  
Thomas G. Ahneman  
Alfred W. Bertoline  
Lauren C. Gauthier  
Donna Karnes  
Salvatore Luciano  
Stuart Mahler  
Robert D. Rinker  
Daniel S. Rovero  
Brenda L. Sisco  
Gregory F. Daniels, Esq., Executive Director, ex-officio

Staff Present:

Jonathan M. Longman, Chief Procurement Officer  
Samson F. Anderson, Research Analyst  
Carmen Hufcut, Trainer Specialist  
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 10:03 a.m.

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

Daniel Rovero motioned to approve the minutes of the State Contracting Standards Board's (the "Board") March 10, 2023, regular meeting, and Alfred Bertoline seconded the motion. The minutes of the March 10, 2023, regular meeting was approved and adopted unanimously as corrected to reference version 6 of the addendum to the Board's February 4, 2022 report on the Connecticut Port Authority instead of references to addendum 6.

3. Privatization Contract Committee Recommendation

- a. The Chairman briefly stated that the reason for scheduling the special meeting of the Board was to consider a time-sensitive request from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to privatize temporarily some of the work of their attorneys. The Chairman then moved the Board to consider the recommendation of the Privatization Contract Committee to approve a proposed stipulation between the Board and the DCP for temporary hearing officer services. Lauren Gauthier seconded the motion which was approved by the Board.
- b. At the request of the Chairman, Jonathan Longman, the Board's Chief Procurement Officer, described the details of DCP's petition for the temporary hiring of hearing officers. Mr. Longman stated that the Assistant Legal Director for DCP included the following information with their petition to the Board: a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) using the Office of Policy and Management's CBA template; a business case; a certification from DCP's Commissioner regarding the accuracy of the information submitted; copies of four proposed contracts for the temporary hearing officer services; and a proposed stipulation agreement between the DCP and the Board should the Board grant DCP's request in the petition.
- c. The Chairman added to Mr. Longman's statements by stating the following: DCP agreed that the hearing officer services requested in the petition constitute a core governmental function that should not be privatized; DCP is not claiming that procuring the petitioned services is more cost-effective compared to hiring permanent DCP hearing officers; DCP is actively trying to fill the hearing officer vacancies resulting from state employee retirements and difficulty recruiting by DAS; and DCP agrees that the hearing officer services requested in the petition are temporary and cannot be used by DCP as a basis to justify privatization of the hearing officer function in the future, unless DCP petitions the board with a new request. The Chairman also stated that the President of the union representing DCP hearing officers attended the Board's Privatization Contract Committee special meeting on March 16, 2023, understands the circumstances surrounding DCP's petition, and does not object to the Board granting the request for temporary hearing officer services given the public interest in not accumulating a backlog for persons with consumer complaints.
- d. The Chairman further stated that the Board's Privatization Contract Committee voted unanimously at its special meeting to recommend that the Board approve DCP's request by granting their privatization petition for temporary hearing officer services by entering into a stipulated agreement with DCP.
- e. There were additional follow up inquiries from Board members regarding the stipulated agreement which were followed up with explanations from the Chairman, Board staff attorney, and Assistant Legal Director for DCP.
- f. The Board then voted unanimously to approve entering into the stipulated agreement with DCP permitting the DCP to contract temporarily for privatized hearing officer services for up to one year.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Adjournment

- a. Motion made by Thomas G. Ahneman to adjourn the meeting; Daniel Rovero seconded the motion. The special meeting was adjourned on March 23, 2023, 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Gregory F. Daniels, Esq. Executive Director