



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
Office of Governmental Accountability  
State Contracting Standards Board

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## **Special Meeting Notice and Agenda**

### **Privatization Contract Committee**

November 1, 2024 - 11:30 A.M.

#### **MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

Rochelle Palache, Chair of the State Contracting Standards Board  
Salvatore Luciano, Chair of the Privatization Contract Committee  
Thomas Ahneman, Member of the Privatization Contract Committee  
Lauren Gauthier, Member of the Privatization Contract Committee  
James Marpe, Member of the Privatization Contract Committee  
Brenda Sisco, Member of the Privatization Contract Committee

Jean Morningstar, Member of the State Contracting Standards Board

Gene Burk, Department of Administrative Services, Director of Procurement Programs & Services

Greg Daniels, Executive Director of the State Contracting Standards Board  
Aleshia Hall, Administrative Assistant

#### **MINUTES**

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 a.m. by Chair Salvatore Luciano

**2. Approve the minutes of the May 21, 2024, Privatization Contract Committee Special Meeting.**

**A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by:** Lauren Gauthier

**The motion was seconded by:** Rochelle Palache

The motion received Yea votes from Salvatore Luciano, Brenda Sisco, and Lauren Gauthier. Rochelle Palache, Thomas Ahneman, and James Marpe abstained since they were not present at that meeting.

Failing to receive a majority vote, the minutes were not accepted at this time and will be presented for consideration again at the next meeting.

**The motion failed to pass.**

**3. Review the Department of Administrative Services request to execute a supplemental contract for limited services related to crane operations.**

Mr. Luciano explained that the Department of Administrative Services has posted for the position of Demolition and Crane Inspector but has been unable to fill the vacancy.

- Referencing 4e-16d: The state is not making an argument that they want to privatize the position. They are requesting that these services be made available until the position can be filled.
- There are no concerns about negative affect on minorities because minorities can submit requests to provide these services.
- This is a very specific skill set and he hopes that they can find someone in Connecticut to provide this service. If not, hopefully an American company will be available.

Mr. Luciano recommended that we support this request and bring the recommendation to the State Contracting Standards Board at the November 8, 2024, regular meeting for discussion for approval.

Mr. Luciano provided clarification to Lauren Gauthier on several points. Ms. Gauthier recommended that a time frame for the request be defined. In response, Mr. Burk requested a one-year allowance with an extension option not to exceed the initial request. He shared that HR just finished a positing which closed without hiring; the position has already been reposted. Based upon his experience with similar situations, to attract more candidates, they are now reexamining payrates to reflect current market conditions. This is an involved process that requires similarly situated positions to ensure fairness and equity amongst like positions. This process may take several months to complete; therefore, a year is requested. If more time is required after the year, DAS will return to this committee. Mr. Luciano emphasized that this is not a true request for privatization.

Thomas Ahneman sought justification about why we are not requiring a cost/benefit analysis. Mr. Burk explained that DAS is attempting to contract for only a specific portion of the job duties assigned to this position. At the present time, the administrative tasks associated with this position are being distributed amongst other employees. DAS is only seeking to contract for the specific skill set required to complete inspections and investigations. Since there is not a ready market for provision of all these services, a cost/benefit analysis would be misleading. Mr. Luciano has no doubt that it will be more expensive to outsource. Mr. Burk shared that the expense to perform these functions on an ad hoc basis is unclear, and they are trying to find a vendor to meet the need. They will make every effort to stay within the budgeted amount. Mr. Luciano also noted that, after hiring, there will be a training period required.

In response to Mr. Ahneman's inquiry, Mr. Burk clarified that the Demolition and Crane Operator Inspector performs the inspection of cranes. The individual must be certified as a crane operator or be a supervisor at a crane company. They are looking to crane operating companies to ask if they would be willing to provide these services on an ad hoc basis. Ultimately, DAS intends for this position to always be done by a State employee. There was only one crane inspector employed by the State, and he retired. Mr. Ahneman said we should consider hiring two people into this position because of the importance of the role.

Mr. Marpe asked for clarification on the liability issues associated with this position. Mr. Burk clarified the individual needs to be certified; they report to the State Fire Marshal and are required to submit reports to them. Mr. Ahneman recommended that the liability insurance thresholds be set by DAS and the outside consultant carry their own insurance.

Having completed the discussion, Ms. Gauthier made a Motion:

**A motion was made by:** Lauren Gauthier

*To authorize DAS, on a non-precedent setting basis for the term of one-year from full Board ratification, to execute a supplemental contract limited to the ad hoc performance of the two (2) time sensitive functions outlined in the subject DAS transmittal dated October 29, 2024, requiring the technical qualifications of a Demolition and Crane Operations Inspector until the current recruitment is completed and the vacant position filled.*

**The motion was seconded by:** Salvatore Luciano

A short clarifying discussion took place.

**The motion was unanimously approved.**

4. **Adjournment:** The meeting was concluded at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleshia Hall  
Administrative Assistant