

APPROVED
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, April 14, 2022 10:00 AM –11:00 AM

Meeting Location: This was a virtual meeting. Meeting materials can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Marb/Full-Board-Meetings-and-Materials>

Call-in Instructions: Telephone 1 860-840-2075
Meeting ID: 748 153 77

Members in Attendance: Secretary Beckham, Christine Shaw (State Treasurer designee), David Biller, Matthew Brokman, Patrick Egan, Stephen Falcigno, Thomas Hamilton, Sal Luciano, Mark Waxenberg, Robert White

Municipal Officials in Attendance: First Selectman Cheryl Blanchard, William Hull, Jennifer Hockenhull, Phillip Penn, Mayor Rossi, Scott Jackson, Thomas McCarthy, Lee Tiernan

OPM Staff in Attendance: Kimberly Kennison, Michael Milone (OPM Liaison), Julian Freund

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.

II. Public Comment Period:

Howard Horvath of West Haven thanked the State and the MARB for the support provided to the City for the last several years. He expressed that some of the problems the City has encountered could have been prevented had the City filled key positions and fully utilized its financial system.

III. Approval of Minutes:

- a. March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting
- b. March 29, 2022 Special Meeting
- c. April 1, 2022 Special Meeting
- d. April 5, 2022 Special Meeting

Mr. Luciano made a motion, with a second by Mr. Egan, to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Town of Sprague

a. Subcommittee update

A written Subcommittee update was provided in the meeting materials.

b. Review and discussion: Monthly Financial Report: February 2022

First Selectman Cheryl Blanchard provided an update on the Town's budget status. There have been no material changes since the previous month's report. Mr. Luciano noted that he believes the Town is moving in the right direction. Ms. Blanchard reported that the audit is expected to be completed soon. Mr. Waxenberg asked about unspent funds in a Social Worker account. Superintendent Hull explained the position is currently being funded through a grant rather than the operating budget. He is projecting an overall end of year balance of about \$100,000.

V. City of Hartford

a. Subcommittee Update

A written Subcommittee update was provided in the meeting materials.

b. Review and discussion: Monthly Financial Report: February 2022

Ms. Hockenull provided an update on the City's budget status. She reported that the City is currently projecting a surplus of about \$4.1 million. Ms. Shaw asked about projected pension expenses. Ms. Hockenull explained that the CMERS contribution changed during the year, resulting in an increased contribution percentage. She also noted higher than anticipated defined contribution payments.

c. Review and discussion: Non-labor contracts:

i. Murphy Road Recycling, Inc.

This contract provides disposal services for the City's waste collection program and is the result of an RFP issued by the City. It is a 3-year contract with options for two one-year extensions. Tip fees begin at \$103/ton in year 1, increasing to \$122.72/ton in year five.

d. Review, discussion and possible action: Agreement for Health Insurance Consulting Services

Based on Hartford Subcommittee discussions, the proposal is to engage a health insurance consultant to analyze the cost of Board of Education employee health insurance benefits under different plans. The scope of work was developed at the Subcommittee level.

Mr. Luciano made a motion, with a second by Mr. Brokman, to advise OPM to proceed with negotiating and executing an agreement with Milliman for the proposed scope of work related to Hartford Public Schools health insurance on behalf of the MARB. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. City of West Haven

a. Subcommittee Update

A written Subcommittee update was provided in the meeting materials.

b. Review and discussion: Monthly Financial Report: January 2022

A written monthly financial report was not submitted by the City. Mr. Jackson said that he anticipates a surplus of about \$1.2 million for the current year. The audit for FY 2021 is still pending, but he expects a surplus of approximately \$2.2 million in FY 2021.

c. Review, discussion and possible action: Labor Contracts:

i. West Haven Police Local #895

The City and the Police union reached a Tentative Agreement on a contract re-opener regarding Police salaries in February. The agreement increases the salary schedule for all members for the purpose of improving retention of Police personnel. The contract was submitted to the MARB April 8th which is beyond the statutory timeline for the MARB to take action. The City indicated that it would obtain a waiver of the timeline from the union in order to provide the MARB with its statutory right to act on the agreement.

Mr. Waxenberg made a motion to table the item and refer it to the Subcommittee, with a second by Ms. Shaw. Mr. Falcigno said that he would like to see the long term impacts of this contract when it comes up for review by the Subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. PSAP Director

Review of this contract was determined to not be required as it is not a collectively bargained agreement.

d. Review and discussion: Non-Labor Contracts:

i. Previously executed contracts

Summary information related to seven contract that had already been executed by the City was included in the meeting materials. A recommendation was made to complete a review of the contract routing and approval process as part of a planned organizational assessment.

ii. Bigson II, LLC – Dump Truck Bodies

This is an agreement for the purchase of three dump truck bodies for three existing trucks in Public Works. The City issued an invitation to bid for this purchase and received two responses. Bigson was the low bidder at a total cost of \$177,877. Mr. White asked if there are any

connections between the owner of this company and any City officials. Mr. McCarthy responded that there are not.

e. Review and discussion: Recommended FY 2023 Budget

Review of the FY 2023 budget will continue at the Subcommittee level before being brought to the full MARB for action at its May meeting.

VII. Other Business

Members discussed a possible change to the date of the May meeting, but deferred selecting a date until after the special meeting immediately following this meeting.

VIII. Adjourn

Mr. Egan made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Falcigno. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM.