

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (“Authority”) was held via Zoom on Wednesday, August 5, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 A.M. by Chair, Stephen C. Waluk.

Members Present:

Stephen C. Waluk, Chair
Judith M. Morse, Vice Chair
Peter Alвити, Jr. P.E., Ex Officio
Darrell Waldron

Members Absent:

R. David Cruise

Invited Guests:

Lori Caron Silveira, Executive Director
Maggie Baker, Chief Financial Officer
Eric Offenberг, Director of Engineering
Kathryn O’Connor, Director of Tolling and Operations
Kathryn Coleman, Manager of Tolling and Operations
Joseph Levesque, Chief Engineer
Stephen Cahill, Manager of Safety and Security
Frank Flowers, Manager of Maintenance
Ildo DaSilva, Server/Network Administrator
Remmy Villacis, Network Technician
Marianne Durgin, Executive Assistant to the Director
Bianca Costantino, Account Executive, RDW
Bill O’Gara, Legal Counsel

Item No. 2

Public Comments: Two members of the public asked for the opportunity to be heard: Evan Smith, (President & CEO Discover Newport) 137 America Way, Jamestown, RI and Representative Deborah L. Ruggiero, 78 Columbia Avenue, Jamestown, who serves the residents of Jamestown and Middletown.

- Evan Smith: Inquired if there was any document about the proposed merger of RITBA with RIDOT for the public to review? Chair Stephen Waluk indicated there is no document to review in that this is not a proposal of the Authority’s and not something RITBA is promulgating. Executive Director Lori Caron Silveira agreed, not RITBA’s proposal, there is no pending legislation or budget bill item at this time and therefore no document to circulate for review.
- Rep Deb Ruggiero: The Jamestown Town Council passed a resolution opposing a merger of RITBA and RIDOT at Rep Ruggiero’s request. Rep Ruggiero expressed three concerns: 1) Safety and Maintenance of Bridges, 2) Merger may constitute a breach of bond covenants, and 3) Feels it would be wrong to move forward on this without hearings, public input and a robust discussion from community. Recommends it be put on 2021- 2022 budget to be fully vetted if proposal still being considered.

Item No. 3

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2020 Board meeting.

Item No. 4

Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O’Gara LLC, Professional Services for the month of June, 2020 in the amount of \$10,768.59: Item introduced, discussion moved to answer question posed by Darrell Waldron, and item approved unanimously.

Director Waldron asked if there were plans to discuss the Resolution of the Council of the City of Newport (No. 2020-63) which opposes “any transfer of RITBA revenue and management authority to RIDOT.” Chair, Stephen Waluk indicated this could be added as a topic of discussion at the next Board meeting.

Item No. 5

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Peter Alviti, Jr, passed unanimously to approve Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C Professional Services – Invoice Dated January 14, 2020 in the amount of \$6,407.00.

Item No. 6

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to ratify Construction/Engineering invoices in the amount of \$7,230,966.49.

Item No. 7

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve the proposal for Atane to perform the Routine Inspection of the Sakonnet River Bridge and the Evans Avenue Bridge under their existing Contract 19-10 (On-Call Professional Engineering Inspection Services) at a cost not to exceed \$115,635.62. Executive Director noted that counsel was consulted to ensure procurement compliance regarding inspection proposals from On-Call Consultants.

Item No. 8

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Judith M. Morse, passed unanimously to approve the proposal for Modjeski and Masters to perform the 2020 Routine (Biennial) Inspection of the Mount Hope Bridge under their existing Contract 19-10 (On-Call Professional Engineering Inspection Services) at a cost not to exceed \$179,700.00.

Item No. 9

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a two-year extension of Contract 15-12 with Kapsch TrafficCom USA for TCS (Toll Collection System) Maintenance and Support at a cost not to exceed \$306,135.08. The extension commences September 1, 2020.

Item No. 10

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to award Contract 20-6, Retirement Plan Advisory Services to the incumbent, PensionmarkMeridien for a three-year period: Year 1: \$10,000 flat annual fee paid monthly, Year 2: \$10,000 flat annual fee paid monthly. In addition, 1 basis point of plan assets (approx. \$500), Year 3: \$10,000 flat annual fee paid monthly. In addition, 2 basis points of plan assets (approx. \$1,000). These fees are lower than the previous contract.

Item No. 11

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to award Contract 20-7, Information Technology Consulting Services to Consulting IMS for a one-year contract with two twelve-month renewal options at a cost not to exceed \$155,00.00. Procurement compliance issues were raised and addressed.

Item No. 12

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to qualify the incumbent, the RDW Group and Cromwell Public Affairs to provide public information and marketing services as solicited in RFQ 20-8, Public Information and Marketing Services. This approval is for qualification only and the firms will provide at-will services on terms to be negotiated.

Executive Director's Report:

- COVID-19 Recovery
 - Employees are being brought back to work as traffic and revenue increases, all the while following the Governor's Reopening RI Guidelines for workplace capacity at 66% with 6-foot distancing.
 - Every service is available to customers.
 - Continuing efforts to ready walk-in center for reopening.
 - Traffic and revenue now at 75%.
- Fare Product
 - RITBA is exploring a partnership with RIPTA to introduce a fare product which would offer motorists an alternate means of payment at the toll plaza. A mobile app or card could be used to make payment with a "reader" device that would be installed at the toll booths providing an additional means of payment besides a transponder or cash.
- Total Delta Prediction Resulting from COVID-19
 - Although toll revenue dropped due to COVID-19 (at its lowest in April at 41%, 55% in May and currently at 75%) we are rebounding and meeting the middle range projected revenue scenario laid out in the Stantec Consulting Services report of projected toll revenues. In addition, the P & L numbers for the month of May tell a good story with several line items coming in under budget. Difficult to project outcome with so many variables but on good track to meet middle range projected revenues, with cost saving measures having been implemented and close monitoring of FY 2021 budget taking place.

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 AM.

Lori Caron Silveira
Secretary