

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (“Authority”) was held via Zoom on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

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The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Chair, Stephen C. Waluk.

**Members Present:**

Stephen C. Waluk, Chair  
Judith M. Morse, Vice Chair  
Peter Alviti, Jr. P.E., Ex Officio  
Darrell Waldron  
R. David Cruise

**Members Absent:**

None

**Invited Guests:**

Lori Caron Silveira, Executive Director  
Toni Gubata, Controller  
Eric Seabury, 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  
Erica Olobri, CPA, Director, Marcum

**Item No. 2**

**Public Comment** – Stephen Cuomo, RITBA Maintenance Department employee, stated that as a member of the negotiating committee of the United Service and Allied Workers of RI and on behalf of all its RITBA members, he respectfully requested that the Board support and ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2020 - 2023. He also stated that the union would like to recognize with gratitude, the support given by all East Bay elected officials, at the state and local levels, for the good work done by all union and non-union employees, as highlighted in the resolutions submitted and on the Board agenda for discussion.

**Item No. 3**

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2020 Board meeting.

**Item No. 4**

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Judith M. Morse, passed unanimously to approve Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O’Gara LLC, Professional Services for the month of July 2020 in the amount of \$19,118.36.

**Item No. 5**

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to ratify Construction/Engineering invoices in the amount of \$3,462,193.64.

**Item No. 6**

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, voted unanimously to receive resolutions for discussion from the City of Newport and the Towns of Portsmouth, Middletown and Jamestown. All four resolutions expressed concern about potential legislation supporting a merger of RITBA and RIDOT. Director Morse requested that Director Alviti provide the Board with an update. Director Alviti indicated that a bill to merge RITBA and RIDOT was submitted early in last year's budget process. The legislature has not convened to ratify a new budget, nor have they convened on other issues, this being one of them. The General Assembly is due to convene on the budget after the November election. Director Alviti had several concerns about the information presented in the resolutions, feeling many of the points presented contained misleading information, which he highlighted. Chair Waluk noted that as the Board of Directors of the Authority, appointed by the Governor to oversee the operations of the Turnpike and Bridge, the Board does not have jurisdiction to make any decisions relating to a proposed merger. The Chair feels that the concept requires legislative hearings, where the bill would be fully vetted, and the policy makers and officials would make informed decisions. At that time, the cities and towns with concerns would have an opportunity to weigh in, as well. He asked that Director Alviti provide the Board with the bill number and sponsor. Executive Director Caron Silveira stated that she does not have a copy of any bill submitted, only an early draft, and that once she receives a copy of the bill, she will circulate it to the RITBA Board.

**Item No. 7**

CBA 2020 – 2023

Executive Director Caron Silveira indicated that the union had voted to accept the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2020 - 2023. There were a few minor changes to the agreement, one being a potential .5% wage increase in January or February of 2021 if certain benchmarks in toll revenue and gas tax are met. There would also be a wage and health benefit reopener for the second and third years of the contract. Director Morse requested that RITBA legal counsel review the agreement. A motion was made by Chair Stephen C. Waluk, seconded by Judith M. Morse, and passed unanimously to table this item, have it reviewed by RITBA legal counsel, and be brought back to the Board at the October meeting.

**Item No. 8**

Motion by R. David Cruise, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a 3.4% discretionary contribution to the 401K plan for eligible employees for FY 2021 at a cost not to exceed \$136,133.92. This item was included in the FY 2021 budget and the percentage of contribution is the same as in years past.

**Item No. 9**

Motion by R. David Cruise, seconded by Judith M. Morse, passed unanimously to award Contract 20-5 – DMV Look-Up for Violations Processing System to Law Enforcement Systems, (LES) LLC at a cost to the Authority not to exceed \$25,000 annually. The contract will be for three years with an option to extend for 2 additional, 1 -year terms. LES was the only bidder and they are the current provider. There was a price reduction by two cents per look-up with this new contract.

**Item No. 10**

Motion by R. David Cruise, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to award Gannett Fleming, Inc. the task order assignment of assisting with the procurement of a replacement back office system (BOS) for the Electronic Toll System at a cost not to exceed \$500,000. In addition to the development and

**Item No. 10 continued**

issuance of the RFP, Gannett Fleming will provide proposal review, vendor selection assistance, system implementation and oversight of acceptance testing of the next back office provider.

**Item No. 11**

Motion by R. David Cruise, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve a task order for Parsons (under Contract 19-9 – On Call Professional Engineering Services) to provide continued maintenance and support for the ATMS system at a cost not to exceed \$119,989.00. It was noted that \$20,000 of this figure goes toward annual licensing fees.

**Item No. 12**

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by R. David Cruise, passed unanimously to approve the FY 2020 Draft Audited Financial Statements prepared by Marcum and presented by Erica Olobri, CPA - Director. Erica stated that the audit went very smoothly with the support of management. The Authority's Performance in 2020: Total Net Position increased by \$2,288,887 and the Authority has a Total Net Position of \$137,046,608.

**Executive Director's Report:**

- New Director of Engineering – Eric Seabury, P.E. has been appointed Director of Engineering. Eric comes to the Authority very highly recommended and regarded. He recently held the position of Assistant Vice President of Engineering at the RI Airport Corporation and before that was Project Manager of Bridge Engineering at RIDOT from 1997 – 2007.
- Traffic and Revenue Data - We continue to monitor this year's budget and include a monthly status update in the Board packet. The traffic and revenue numbers are reporting at 75% or a bit higher as compared to last year's numbers. There are many tolling agencies that have not yet met this level of traffic and revenue recovery from COVID.

Motion by R. David Cruise, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 AM.

**Lori Caron Silveira**  
**Secretary**