

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (“Authority”) was held via teleconference on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. Chairman Waluk and Executive Director Caron Silveira dialed in from the Authority’s Main Office Conference Room in Jamestown. Chairman Waluk reviewed procedures for teleconference voting by roll call before the start of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 A.M. by Chairman Stephen C. Waluk

Members Present:

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

Invited Guests:

Lori Caron Silveira, Executive Director
Maggie Baker, Chief Financial Officer
Eric Offenber, Director of Engineering
Kathryn O’Connor, Director of Tolling and Operations
Kathryn Coleman, Manager of Tolling and Operations
Joseph Levesque, Chief Engineer
Jim Malachowski, RDW
Bianca Costantino, RDW
Bill O’Gara, Legal Counsel

Item No. 2

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Item No. 3

Motion by Stephen C. Waluk, seconded by Judith M. Morse, passed unanimously to approve the appointment of Lori Caron Silveira as Secretary of the Board.

Item No. 4

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2020 Board meeting.

Item No. 5

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve:
Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O’Gara LLC, Professional Services for the months of December 2019,
January and February 2020 \$33,635.34

Item No. 6

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve:
Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C
Professional Services for the month of January 2020 \$308.12

Item No. 7

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to ratify
Construction/Engineering invoices in the amount of: \$1,206,685.34

Item No. 8

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Judith M. Morse, passed unanimously to award Contract 19-1 – Newport/Pell and Mt Hope Bridges Electrical and Communications Upgrade to EW Audet & Sons, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$2,666,358.71. This work will replace the electrical system and fiber which goes across both bridges. Eric Offenberg indicated there was one additional bid from Aetna Bridge Company at \$6.2 million. Audet has done extensive electrical work on the Newport/Pell Bridge. Their mobilization costs were lower along with all items across the bid, therefore the bid was accepted. The project will start right away, and there will be no additional lane closures as the contractor will coordinate the work with the existing lane closures for the deck replacement project.

Item No. 9

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve WSP's proposal to provide Construction Support Services for Contract 19-1 – Newport/Pell and Mt Hope Bridges Electrical and Communications Upgrade at a cost not to exceed \$302,000.00. This work falls under their current Contract 19-9 – On-Call Professional Engineering Services. There was discussion about the RFP process for construction support services and, in general, for multi-phased projects.

Item No. 10

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve Michael Baker International's proposal (under their current Contract 19-10 – On-Call Professional Engineering Inspection Services) to perform the routine inspection of the five Jamestown RT-138 structures at a cost not to exceed \$42,816.23.

Item No. 11

Motion by Judith M. Morse, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to approve WSP's proposal (under their current Contract 19-10 - On-Call Professional Engineering Inspection Services) to conduct the 2020 Biennial Newport Pell Bridge Suspended Spans Inspection at a cost not to exceed \$341,000.00.

Executive Director's Report:

- **Newport Pell Bridge Deck Replacement Project:** The project is on schedule. The silver lining in the COVID-19 cloud is that since traffic is down our contractors have an additional lane to work in for the project. Speed is down as well.
- **COVID-19 Response:**
 - Preventative measures have been taken early on in our operations in every area: Providing gloves, sanitizer, frequent cleanings and putting protocols in place for handling of cash transactions.
 - Additional measures taken include closing Walk-In E-ZPass Center weeks ago and reconfiguring office space to provide safe distancing of staff.
 - Daily data regarding number of vehicle crossings is being provided to Governor's office & state and federal officials to assist them in determining the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the RI economy.
 - Lastly, on positive note Fitch just released our bond rating and affirmed it as an "A" with a stable outlook.

- Director Alviti asked if toll revenue is down, and if so, how the reduction will be addressed. The Executive Director responded that it may be down as much as 50%. Revenue was up in a year-over-year analysis before COVID-19. RITBA staffing is down to core personnel. RITBA can fund current projects as they are tied to our bond revenue. In coming months, RITBA will revisit future capital projects to determine which, if any, should be deferred.
- Additional considerations will be made for future months' projections of reduced revenues due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Judith M. Morse, passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 AM.

Lori Caron Silveira
Secretary