

The Annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (“Authority”) was held at the Authority’s offices in Jamestown on May 25, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Vice Chair, Darrell Waldron.

Members Present

Darrell Waldron, Vice Chair

Peter M. Janaros, P.E.

James K. Salome

Karen D. Pinch

Members Absent:

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E., Ex Officio

Invited Guests:

Lori Caron Silveira, Executive Director

Eric Seabury, P.E., Director of Engineering

Kathryn Coleman, Director of Tolling Operations

Jeffrey Goulart, Chief Financial Officer

Stephen Cahill, Manager of Safety and Security

Jeffrey Wiggin, Assistant Project Manager

Marianne Durgin, Executive Assistant to the Director

Remmy Villacis, Network Technician

Brian Lamoureux, Legal Counsel

Item No. 2

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Item No. 3

A motion made by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by James K. Salome, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2022 Board meeting. Karen D. Pinch abstained from the vote as this was her first meeting as a newly appointed Board member.

Item No. 4

Darrell Waldron stated that Judith M. Morse had resigned as Chair and Board member. He expressed his gratitude for her exemplary service and noted that it will be difficult to fill her shoes. He also expressed gratitude for the service Ms. Morse provided in assisting the Executive Director and CFO with the preparation of annual budgets.

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to appoint James K. Salome as Chair. James K. Salome expressed his gratitude to the Board members for their vote of confidence. Motion by James K. Salome, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to reappoint Darrell Waldron as Vice Chair. Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to reappoint Lori Caron Silveira as Secretary. Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to reappoint Jeff Goulart as Treasurer.

Director Caron Silveira introduced newly appointed Board member, Karen D. Pinch. Director Pinch is a retired Lt. Colonel of the RI State Police, currently serves as the Town Administrator for the Town of Richmond, RI and is a native of Jamestown. On behalf of RITBA staff and the Board of Directors, Director Caron Silveira gave Director Pinch a warm welcome.

Item No. 5

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve an agreement with the City of Providence for a one-time purchase of excess virtual net metering credits in the amount of \$125,000. RITBA will receive these credits on its National Grid invoices and, in return, will pay the City of Providence \$92,500. The agreement will result in a reduction of utility costs by \$32,500 for fiscal year 2023. Director Caron Silveira commended Mr. Goulart for the pro-active manner in which he secured the agreement for RITBA. Mr. Goulart saw an ad placed by the City of Providence and submitted a bid on RITBA's behalf. The agreement was also vetted by legal counsel.

Item No. 6

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve of a 3.5% discretionary contribution to the 401K plan for eligible employees for FY 2023. The request is a 0.1% increase from the prior year's approved fiscal budget. The increase is equivalent to approximately \$4,500. The change will also provide an opportunity for management to engage with employees to encourage review of their own contributions to their retirement accounts and encourage participation in the plan.

Item No. 7

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to award Contract 22-02 – To Design, Install and Maintain a New All-Electronic Tolling System for the Claiborne Pell Bridge to Emovis. Software, hardware, design, and implementation are at a cost of \$2,465,794 and there is an annual cost of \$240,758. This is a five-year operations and maintenance contract term with three, two-year renewal options. Four proposals were received, and interviews with conducted with all four proposers. Emovis received the highest overall score, which included technical capabilities and pricing. The transition from the current tolling system provider to Emovis will not financially impact RIDOT. Time and costs will be saved as Emovis will also serve as RITBA's back-office provider.

Item No. 8

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve an 18-month extension of Contract 15-12 – Claiborne Pell Bridge Toll Collection System Upgrade with Kapsch Trafficom USA, Inc. The extended term will begin September 1, 2022 at a cost of \$14,270 for the first twelve months. The last six months will be determined by a cost-of-living adjustment. Kapsch will continue to provide toll collection system maintenance and support while the new all-electronic gantry is being designed and constructed to replace the current toll plaza.

Item No. 9

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to select AECOM to perform conceptual development, design engineering, bid phase, construction phase, and environmental services to develop design drawings, specifications, construction cost estimates, perform general administration and produce final bid documents associated with dehumidification of the cables and anchorages of the Mount Hope Bridge. Three consultants submitted proposals, Modjeski and Masters, Parsons, and AECOM. All three were interviewed by the selection committee, and the final scoring resulted in selection of AECOM as the most qualified for the project. Scope of work and fee proposal will be negotiated with AECOM. The scope of work will include all preliminary investigation, design, and bid phases. Mr. Seabury noted that RITBA has submitted two RAISE grant proposals for funding for this project and is awaiting word on the status of the second proposal. Director Janaros noted that AECOM's proposal was one of the better proposals he has reviewed and believes that AECOM is professionally qualified for the work.

Item No. 10

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Darrell Waldron, passed unanimously to award a construction contract to Cardi Corporation in the amount not-to-exceed \$498,500, plus a RITBA contingency of \$50,000

for temporary shoring, jacking, and replacement of two rocker bearings on Pier 5W of the Claiborne Pell Bridge. In addition, a task order for construction inspection services with Keville Enterprises, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 was also approved. Mr. Seabury noted that the rocker bearing construction contract was rebid as the initial bids came in much higher than WSP's estimate for the work. Revisions were made to the specifications and the new Invitation for Bid (IFB) produced bids that were more consistent with the information gathered by WSP in its review of the original bids and a revised estimate. The low bid in the second round came in \$70,000 under the lowest bid of the first IFB.

Item No. 11

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to approve a purchase order in an amount not-to-exceed \$8,350 for Green International Affiliates, Inc. (Green) to perform an engineering inspection of several retaining walls, several drainage basins, and the boat ramp/pier area associated with the Sakonnet River Bridge. Four quotes were received from qualified companies per the State of RI Master Price Agreement. Green submitted the lowest quote and RITBA staff insured Green was comfortable with the scope of the inspection and required deliverables.

Item No. 12

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve a purchase order in an amount not-to-exceed \$6,000 for Bay State Sewage Disposal, Inc. to perform repairs to the RITBA offices septic system that will allow the system to be in good operation for another 10 to 12 years or more. The system has needed pumping more frequently than normal and the deficiency was noted in a 2018 inspection report. Two quotes were received from qualified companies on the State of RI Master Price Agreement.

Item No. 13

Motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Karen D. Pinch, passed unanimously to approve a purchase order with United Rentals in an amount not-to-exceed \$63,910.60 for rental of a Truck Mounted Attenuator (TMA) and a 135-foot Articulating Lift for a period of 5 months. This equipment will be used for a variety of planned, seasonal work. The lift will be used for painting of steel bents on the Bristol side of the Mount Hope Bridge at a height above what RITBA equipment can reach. The TMA will be used for a combination of various capital projects and scheduled maintenance work. Mr. Seabury noted that he received approval from Director Caron Silveira for RITBA to cover expenses for renting the equipment for the first month in order to get started on the work. The painters from the union were available and ready to begin. Director Janaros noted that he liked the concept of pursuing in-house work as it is a cost-effective approach.

Item No. 14

Motion by Darrell Waldron, seconded by Peter M. Janaros, passed unanimously to authorize the Board Chair to enter into the First Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Executive Director Lori Caron Silveira. The Board met in Executive Session at the February 2022 Board meeting and authorized the Board Chair to negotiate a one-year contract extension with the Executive Director on the same terms as negotiated for the initial three-year contract period. The one-year amendment was drafted by Attorney O'Gara from Pannone Lopes Devereaux and O'Gara. The Employment Agreement is extended to January 31, 2024. Chair Salome commended Director Silveira on her service.

Director of Engineering Eric Seabury - Capital Projects Status Report: This month Mr. Seabury highlighted the following:

- Bridge Electrical & Communication Upgrades – Pell and Mt. Hope: This project was recently completed by Audet. Final invoices have been received and the project will be closed out.

- Phase II – AET Conceptual Design: The conceptual design will be completed in the coming weeks. A preliminary scope for the final design phase has been received from WSP. They have not provided the cost yet.
- Misc. Steel Repairs – Mt. Hope and Sakonnet: Piasecki Steel is about to begin the needed repairs that were identified in the Interim Inspection of the Mt. Hope Bridge. This constitutes close to half a million dollars that is coming from remaining funds from Contract 19-13's budget.
- Bridge Inspections: The Newport Pell Bridge Underwater Inspection was recently completed. Director Janaros inquired if anything unusual was found during the underwater inspection. Mr. Seabury responded that nothing unusual was found. Underwater imaging took place on Pier 1W, below 100 feet, which was approved by Federal Highway. Assistant Project Manager Jeffrey Wiggin was able to observe the technical work and reported to Mr. Seabury that the work was impressive.

CFO Jeff Goulart – Financial Summary Report

Total revenue, year-to-date actual vs. budget is higher by \$3.8M, or 15%, and operating expenses are lower than budget by \$1.5M, or 15%. Of that \$1.5M in lower operating expenses, approximately \$900K is from personnel expenses. Contractual services are lower by \$178K, primarily due to lower legal fees, as a result of the Atsalis case having been settled. Insurance is lower by approximately \$200K as a result of lower negotiated premiums and a credit from Beacon Mutual for worker's compensation. Bridge inspections are lower by approximately \$400K primarily due to the timing of the inspections. Mr. Seabury has also sought multiple bids on the inspections from various firms. Mr. Goulart stated that cost saving opportunities continue to be explored in all departments. Chair Salome commended all staff for their efforts.

Executive Director's Report:

- **Traffic Update** – Director Caron Silveira is optimistic that the traffic will continue to get closer to the 2019 numbers, especially with good weather and summer upon us. We are still down by approximately \$20M over three fiscal years due to COVID. RITBA has fared much better than many of the state agencies.
- **Federal Funding Requests** –
 - **2022 RAISE Grant** - RITBA had its debriefing with USDOT on its 2021 RAISE grant application for the Mt. Hope Bridge dehumidification project. RITBA received the highest scores possible in two of the three categories. The recommendation from USDOT was to focus on improving the second category, the local and regional impact of the project. RITBA has submitted a 2022 RAISE Grant Proposal and will be receiving word on the outcome in early August. The consultant who reviewed the new submission indicated that it was one of the strongest she's seen. There was much focus on labor. RITBA received considerable support from the community and the unions. Labor organizations who introduce youth to jobs and careers related to infrastructure are supporting RITBA.
 - **Other Funding Sources** – RITBA submitted a proposal to the Mega and INFRA Programs in an amount of \$132.5M. This includes a request for funding of the dehumidification of the Claiborne Pell Bridge, completion of the rehabilitation of its deck, painting of the towers, and work on the suspender ropes.
- **Suicide Deterrent Concepts – Legislative Bills** – The bills are still pending. In the event RITBA secures the funding to study the feasibility of deterrent concepts, the consulting firm Atkins has been selected and is ready to begin. This issue continues to receive attention. Director Caron Silveira noted she recently received an email from Jeff Hill, manager of a program at RIDOH that focuses on violent deaths. His department tracks statistics on suicides in the state. His team is going after a federal grant from the CDC that has a more comprehensive focus on the matter of suicide.

A motion by Peter M. Janaros, seconded by Darrell Waldron passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 A.M.

Lori Caron Silveira
Secretary