

PENNSYLVANIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

January 17, 2019

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (“PICA”) was held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 in the PICA board room located at 1500 Walnut Street, 16th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Attendees

Board: Kevin Vaughan, Alan Kessler, James Cawley, Michael Karp (*via telephone*), Robert A. Dubow (*ex officio*), and Chelsea Guzowski (*ex officio, alt. for Jen Swails*).

Staff: Harvey M. Rice, Gus Tsakos, Dora Ward, Daniel Esposito, and Deidre Morgenstern.

Invited Guests: S. William Richter, Esq., Reed Smith, LLP; Anna Adams, Office of Budget and Program Evaluation.

Call to Order

Mr. Vaughan called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cawley made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 7, 2018. Mr. Kessler seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Resolution #2019-06 – Reappointment of Executive Director

Mr. Vaughan announced a resolution to reappoint Harvey Rice as PICA’s Executive Director. Mr. Vaughan asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Cawley stated that the lack of discussion was in no way a lack of support, and that Mr. Rice has done a great job.

Mr. Cawley made a motion to approve the resolution, and Mr. Karp seconded the motion.

Voice vote, qualified majority required:

Mr. Cawley: Absolutely, yes.

Mr. Karp: Yes, I’m very happy.

Mr. Kessler: Absolutely, yes.

Mr. Vaughan: Yes.

The motion passed 4-0. Mr. Cawley offered congratulations or condolences, depending on one's perspective.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Rice stated that the November and December revenue reports were published since the last Board meeting.

Mr. Rice pointed the Board's attention to the appeals report in their binders. Of the approximately 8,000 appeals, only about 800 have been heard so far.

Mr. Rice also reported that the investment yield is currently 2.68 percent, which is an increase over last year. He also explained that Standard & Poor's has reaffirmed PICA's AAA bond rating, despite having changed certain criteria that initially linked PICA to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Due to the new criteria, S&P was originally going to downgrade PICA to meet the Commonwealth's rating, but after some discussion with PICA, they decided to reaffirm the AAA bond rating. Mr. Dubow stated that this type of reversal is rare.

Mr. Rice stated the annual economist meeting at the Federal Reserve Bank will be held on February 12th with Mr. Herb Taylor moderating, as he did last year. Mr. Kessler and Mr. Cawley requested a change of venue for future conferences due to the inconvenience of the location and accessibility of the Fed. Mr. Rice agreed that PICA would look into changing the venue for future conferences.

Mr. Rice alerted the Board members that their ethics forms were mailed to them yesterday and that PICA staff would follow up with them about filing the forms.

The Police Court overtime study is on track, with the consultant conducting interviews with the various agencies. There will be a status meeting tomorrow.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Rice stated that PICA is at 72 percent of its budget.

Bank Reconciliation Update from City

Mr. Rice stated an update was sent to the Board members, and there is a meeting scheduled for next week.

Executive Session

Mr. Vaughan requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 12:30 p.m. The session was concluded at 12:38 p.m.

New Business

Mr. Vaughan stated that Board member reappointments, which occur every two years, might not be completed on time after they lapse at the end of January 2019. Thus, Mr. Vaughan made a motion to designate the Executive Director to sign checks and conduct PICA operations until the Board is reappointed. Mr. Cawley seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Kessler stated that an agency similar to PICA is being created in Harrisburg and said that he would put Mr. Rice in contact with that agency in order to help advise them on agency operations.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment/Recess

Mr. Vaughan dismissed the meeting at 12:40 p.m.