

PENNSYLVANIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board

January 10, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (“PICA”) was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, in the PICA Board room located at 1500 Walnut Street, 16th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Attendees

Board: Kevin Vaughan, Alan Kessler, Esq. (via Zoom), Courtney Richardson, Esq. (via Zoom), Michael Karp (via telephone), Roderick Henkels, (via Zoom), Rob Dubow (*ex officio*) (via Zoom), and Natalie Krug (*ex officio*) (via Zoom)

Staff: Harvey M. Rice and Deidre Morgenstern

Invited Guests: S. William Richter, Esq., Reed Smith, LLP (via Zoom), Marisa Waxman, Office of Budget and Program Evaluation (via Zoom)

Call to Order

Mr. Vaughan called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

Executive Session – Discussion Regarding Personnel Matter - 12:16 p.m. through 12:21 p.m.

Resolution No. 2023 - 04 – Reappointment of Executive Director

Mr. Vaughan announced a resolution to reappoint Harvey Rice as PICA’s Executive Director.

Mr. Karp made a motion to approve the resolution, and Mr. Kessler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023 - 05 – Consulting Services Proposal – Angela Bird

Mr. Rice stated that due to the resignation of PICA’s Deputy Executive Director, Gus Tsakos, he has listed the job posting on PICA’s website. Mr. Rice added that if the board members know of any interested candidates, please direct them to respond to this listing. Mr. Rice continued stating that in light of the distressing passing of Dan Esposito, he would like to engage Angela Bird as a consultant to generate required reports as well as related graphs and charts. Mr. Rice stated that he has worked with Ms. Bird in the past and was impressed with her expertise, accuracy, and professionalism. Mr. Karp suggested that the board give Mr. Rice the authority to engage Ms. Bird for these services as needed without the limitation of total hours. Mr. Richter stated that these consulting services will require an at-will contract.

Mr. Karp made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Kessler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023 - 06 - Approval of City Capital Substitution Request – Free Library

Mr. Rice stated that the City is requesting a reallocation of the remaining \$380,000 in surplus bond proceeds for the Free Library that were approved by the PICA Board in the 2013 Substitution. Ms. Waxman stated that \$250 thousand will provide for modernization of elevators at Northeast Regional and Wyoming Libraries. She added that the Wyoming Library is also a polling site. Ms. Richardson asked if the elevators are ADA compliant. Ms. Waxman answered that both elevators are not ADA compliant. They are non-functional and cannot be repaired, thus modernization is required. Ms. Waxman continued stating that \$130 thousand that was originally slated for the Welsh Road Library roof replacement are no longer needed, as repairs were sufficient in addressing the issues, rather than a full roof replacement. Reallocating the funds to the Walnut West branch would address an actively leaking roof that is causing significant interior damage to the Children’s Library. Mr. Vaughan stated that the roof is well over twenty years old.

Mr. Karp made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Kessler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Karp made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 15, 2022. Mr. Henkels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Rice thanked the board members for his reappointment. Mr. Rice also thanked the board for their sympathies, support and encouragement in the days following Mr. Esposito’s passing.

Mr. Rice advised the board that PICA will release the November obligations and revenue reports this week. He continued stating that PICA staff released the November and October overtime reports and will release the December overtime report once the information is available. Mr. Rice provided a synopsis of the reports for the Board.

Mr. Rice informed the board that he posted the deputy executive director’s job listing to job search sites as well as with officials at Temple University and Fels.

Mr. Rice stated that PICA’s annual meeting of regional economists will be held on February 16th at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Karp stated that board member appointments expire on January 30th. He added that since there is great uncertainty regarding the leadership in the House of Representatives, PICA should not schedule the next board meeting until board members are appointed. Mr. Kessler asked if a holdover status is available. Mr. Richter responded that for regular board business, a quorum of three members is required. However, resolutions such as the PICA operating budget, for example, would require a quorum of four members.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Rice stated that PICA spending for FY2023 is 76% percent of the approved budget.

Overtime Update

Mr. Rice advised the board that the overtime update includes data through November. Staffing levels are currently at 81percent resulting in high overtime usage.

Mr. Kessler asked Mr. Dubow if there is any movement in staffing levels. Mr. Dubow answered that he is meeting with the Managing Director and the Chief Administrative Officer for an update. He added that all major cities are experiencing this same challenge.

Mr. Kessler exited the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

New Business

Mr. Richter asked Mr. Rice if staff members were hired outright in the past. Mr. Rice answered that they were, but with board approval and advisement. Mr. Henkels suggested authorizing the executive director to fill the two vacant positions. Mr. Vaughan stated that these authorizations will require scheduling a meeting. Mr. Rice stated that he will contact the board members with available dates.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Mr. Vaughan wished the board and staff a happy Martin Luther King holiday.

Mr. Karp made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Henkels seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.