

Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc.  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, 1/18/18 4 p.m.  
Quest Center First Floor Conference Room 1213 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA  
**MINUTES**

Executive Committee members present: Tony Sapienza, Chair, Bruce Morell, Joseph Michaud, Rick Kidder, David Slutz, Lisa Lemieux

Executive Committee members absent: Helena DaSilva Hughes, John Fernandes, Mike Tavares, Dave Sykes, B. Francis

Other WIB members present: Diane Hurley

WIB Staff in attendance: Steven Grant, Jim Oliveira

Others:

Chair, Tony Sapienza called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM with quorum.

### **Consent Agenda**

Rick Kidder moved to approve the meeting minutes from 8/15/17, noting Ms. Francis exception... Bruce Morell seconded, all in favor.

### **Building Working Group**

Jim Oliveira updated the committee on recent meeting with WIB staff and EDC staff. The possible use and associated costs were discussed for the vacant building next to the WIB offices. Discussion was very preliminary. Jim said it would need extensive planning. Tony pointed out that the building across the street is already being eyed as a parking facility, and that would have to happen to make the Purchase St. plan feasible.

### **Executive Director Report**

Jim announced that most of the issues have been answered and resolved. He said the advance balance discrepancy was still a work in progress. Steve Grant pointed out that the New Direction 12/31/17 reported cash balance was within \$50 of the WIB's advance balance. He said it was a good sign but the accounting entries that created the discrepancy have not been identified. Tony said the Performance Measures Committee recommended hiring a forensic accountant if the discrepancy could not be resolve. Joe Michaud made the motion to approve the hiring of a forensic accountant if deemed necessary. Bruce Morell seconded. All were in favor.

Jim said the RFP was to be issued on 1/19. He also spoke of a meeting with DCS representatives and said we have the opportunity to slow down the re-compete if we desire. DCS pointed out issues related to the time period and discussed issues encountered in other areas of the state after an operator change. Tony said DCS was reluctant to endorse the idea of re-bidding, but said it was a WIB decision and they would help. Diane Hurley said that Dave Manning's main message was that the big issue is the timing and the pending budget cuts expected and if the RFP was put off a few months we might be in a better position. After a discussion, the committee decided to continue as voted previously with the RFP release and discuss the possibility of an extension with New Direction SouthCoast as necessary if a transition occurred as a result of the RFP.

### **Business Development Committee**

Rick Kidder said the committee would meet on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Will discuss the strategic plan and costs associated with the rebranding effort.

### **Other**

Tony said that he mentioned to the Performance Committee, Steve Grant is approaching retirement, that this might be the time, to ask the City if it would consider being the Fiscal Agent. He said there was no decision but we are exploring it. Tony and Jim will contact the city to discuss any possibilities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Steven Grant, CFO

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