



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY  
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Final & Approved Minutes  
Friday, December 9, 2016 Meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board Privatization  
Committee  
999 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

Members Present

Claudia Baio, Chair  
Brenda Sisco  
Thomas Ahneman  
Charles Casella

1. [Call to order](#)

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 A.M. by Chair Baio.

2. [Approve the minutes of the November 4, 2016 meeting](#)

Motion made by Brenda Sisco and seconded by Thomas Ahneman to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2016 meeting. All voted in favor.

3. [Privatization of Group Homes by the Department of Developmental Services DDS](#)

Chair Baio noted that based upon the discussion at the last meeting of the State Contracting Standards Board Privatization no action is being taken.

4. [Department of Transportation \(DOT\) Bridge Safety Inspection Review](#)

The information requested by DOT has not been received. DOT has been keeping the Board informed of their progress. No action taken.

5. [Public Comment](#)

Ned Statchen, DOT Bridge Safety employee and CSEA (CT State Employees Association member) addressed the Privatization Committee.

Mr. Statchen noted his public comments are personal opinions and not an official DOT representation.

- Personal History -Transportation Engineer 3 - B.S. Civil Engineering; Have worked for CT DOT for 31 years, started in Bridge Design (8 Years); promotional transfer to Bridge Safety (23 Years); where I have worked with both State and Consultant Bridge Inspection Teams.
- Two DOT Inspectors retired early in the year and their position numbers were given away to the Bridge Design unit, where they hired two people. No planning for retiree replacement was done. Not the actions expected if our goal is to bring inspection work back in house.  
We had another bridge inspector retire in June, and I've been told we still have that position number, but no one has been hired yet.
- Early in 2016 we started negotiations for new consultant engineering (CE) agreements and the decision was made by management to go from the current five CE's to six. It was also decided to go from one underwater CE to two. Not the way to go if we are trying to bring more work back inside the Unit. It was around 2009 when we went from four to five CE's. When I started with Bridge Safety we had only two state bridge inspection consultants and they only did the largest and most complex bridges.
- Bridge Safety and Evaluation Unit has the distinction within the DOT of having one of the fastest growing costs for any unit but the number of bridges has pretty much stayed the same. Bridges get replaced but there are not that many newly constructed bridges. The skyrocketing costs come from doing more and more work with consultants. It also makes negotiations for price more difficult because they know we lack the staff to do the work ourselves, giving them more leverage.
- I think there will always be a need for some consultants. There are very large and complex structures that it would not be cost effective to keep specific experts on staff that are only needed infrequently, like mechanical/electrical engineers that are needed to inspect our movable bridges. But we are paying "expert rates" right now to have CE's look at the most simple concrete box culverts and then give us some very long report that's not needed.

Thank you for your time and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Travis Woodward, a DOT employee, addressed the Privatization Committee, he is a project engineer working in construction doing inspections and has been with the DOT for fourteen years.

Mr. Woodward urged the Committee to review engineering services and construction inspections next after bridge safety inspections. Mr. Woodward provided the Committee with the results of his Freedom of Information Act request of the DOT on Engineering Consultants that received a 3% cost of living increase.

Dave Glidden, Executive Director of the CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 addressed the Privatization Committee. Mr. Glidden shared his concerns about the privatization of Department of Developmental Services (DDS) services. For the record Mr. Glidden stated his disagreement with the position that the State Contracting Standards Board doesn't have the jurisdiction of proposed privatization of group homes. Mr. Glidden stated it is not the continuation of existing contract and very significantly different in scope and nature.

Deborah Chernoff, Public Policy Director for New England Healthcare Employees Union District 1199 of the Service Employees International Union addressed the Privatization Committee. Ms. Chernoff shared her belief that no cost effectiveness study was done in the privatization of group homes by DDS. Ms. Chernoff offered that the data supporting the privatization is from, in her opinion, a flawed study by the Program Review Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly. Ms. Chernoff expressed that she respectfully but strongly disagrees with the Attorney General's assessment of the legal position of this.

## 6. [Adjournment](#)

Motion made by Thomas Ahneman and second by Charles Casella to adjourn. All voted in favor

Respectfully submitted: David Guay