

Financial Restructuring Board for Local Governments

Meeting Minutes February 11, 2014 3:00 PM

The Blue Room (Room 250)
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

The Financial Restructuring Board for Local Governments ("the Board") convened at 3:10 PM on February 11, 2014 in the New York State Capitol Building in Albany, NY. The following members of the Board were present:

Robert Megna (Chair)
Thomas DiNapoli
Cesar Perales
Jack Martins
Sydney Cresswell
RoAnn Destito
Matthew Driscoll
Todd Snyder

The following members of the Board were absent:

Eric Schneiderman
Herman Farrell, Jr.

Chairman Megna asked the Board to consider the minutes from the meeting on November 19, 2013. Mr. Martins motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Destito seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Megna then asked Secretary to the Board Timothy Ryan to give a brief update on the two municipalities currently under review (the City of Fulton and the Town of Fishkill) and to provide information on the four new applicants for a Comprehensive Review (the City of Rochester, the Village of Alfred, the Village of North Collins, and the Village of Wilson).

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation with the requested information. The reviews for the City of Fulton and the Town of Fishkill are currently ongoing and recommendations are due in May. The financial condition of the four new applicants was discussed.

Chairman Megna mentioned that he was surprised at the high level of poverty in the City of Rochester.

Mr. Martins asked why some of the applicants appeared to have available fund balance but also had structural gaps next year. He suggested this may be an area for further review by the Board.

Chairman Megna discussed how the Board should look into any PILOT arrangements with the Village of Alfred and the two local colleges. He would also like additional information on regional comparisons for some of the metrics rather than statewide comparisons.

Mr. Driscoll asked how the average full value tax rate eligibility threshold was calculated. Mr. Ryan explained the statutory 75th percentile calculation.

Mr. Martins noted that the Village of Wilson needed to both raise its tax rate and use fund balance in its most recent budget, an area that should be examined further by the Board.

Mr. Snyder discussed the high percentage of tax exempt property in the Village of Alfred.

Chairman Megna mentioned that he does not believe the size of a municipality should disqualify it from receiving Board assistance. Board members expressed agreement.

Chairman Megna then asked the Board to consider the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 2014-01: Approving the Request for a Comprehensive Review from the City of Rochester.

Mr. Snyder motioned to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Martins seconded the motion and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 2014-02: Approving the Request for a Comprehensive Review from the Village of Alfred.

Mr. DiNapoli motioned to adopt the Resolution. Ms. Destito seconded the motion and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 2014-03: Approving the Request for a Comprehensive Review from the Village of North Collins.

Ms. Destito motioned to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Perales seconded the motion and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 2014-04: Approving the Request for a Comprehensive Review from the Village of Wilson.

Mr. Snyder motioned to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Perales seconded the motion and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 2014-05: Amending the List of Municipalities that Cannot Be Deemed Fiscally Eligible Municipalities.

Chairman Megna asked Mr. Ryan to explain the nature of this resolution. Mr. Ryan explained that the City of Rome was previously ineligible to be deemed a Fiscally Eligible Municipality because they had not submitted all necessary information to the Office of the State Comptroller. Since the list was created, the City had submitted the information and inquired about rectifying its status as an ineligible municipality. The Office of the State Comptroller had confirmed in writing that they had received all necessary information. The resolution would allow the City to apply for Board services with additional justification.

Mr. Snyder asked why the Board was considering a single request instead of fully updating the list.

Chairman Megna discussed how continually changing the list could affect the eligibility threshold and cause confusion.

Mr. Martins suggested approving a broader resolution at the next meeting to allow municipalities that submit missing information to be removed from the ineligible list.

Mr. Martins motioned to adopt the Resolution. Mr. DiNapoli seconded the motion and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Ryan
Secretary