

## **Financial Restructuring Board for Local Governments**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**June 26, 2019**

**2:13 PM**

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

The Financial Restructuring Board for Local Governments ("the Board") convened at 2:13 PM on June 26, 2019 in the New York State Capitol Building in Albany, NY. The following members of the Board were present:

Jesse Olczak (representative designated for Robert Mujica, Jr., Chair)  
Tracy Hitchen Boyd (representative designated for Thomas DiNapoli)  
Matthew Driscoll  
Mark Schroeder  
Mark Pattison (representative designated for Rossana Rosado)  
Sydney Cresswell  
RoAnn Destito

The following members of the Board were absent:

Letitia James  
Helene E. Weinstein

Mr. Olczak opened the meeting and welcomed the Board's newest member, Commissioner Schroeder, and welcomed Tracy Hitchen Boyd appearing on behalf of the State Comptroller. He then asked the Board to consider the minutes from the meeting on June 13, 2018.

Ms. Destito motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Driscoll seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Olczak asked Timothy Ryan, Secretary to the Board, to provide an overview of the five comprehensive reviews.

Mr. Ryan began with a PowerPoint presentation of the City of Ogdensburg, with a description of the findings and recommendations for the City.

Mr. Olczak then asked for any Board member questions.

Mr. Pattison asked if there would be a consolidation cost or a fee charged by the county to the city for transferring 911 dispatch, as recommended in the report.

Mr. Ryan replied that the details had yet to be worked out, but that the economy of scale in transferring a function fully is a win for the taxpayers, and he was confident that the parties will work it out.

Mr. Olczak asked the board to consider **Resolution 2019-01**: Approving the Comprehensive Report for the City of Ogdensburg.

Mr. Driscoll motioned to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation with a description of the findings and recommendations for the City of Watervliet.

Mr. Olczak asked the Board if there were any questions, and there being none, he asked the board to approve **Resolution 2019-02**: Approving the Comprehensive Report for the City of Watervliet.

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

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation with a description of the findings and recommendations for the City of Long Beach.

Mr. Olczak then asked for any Board member questions.

Mr. Schroeder asked if Mr. Ryan could reiterate the comptroller and city manager situation.

Mr. Ryan noted that there was an acting city manager and a new acting city manager has been appointed since the beginning of the Board's review. He also noted that the city had (via appointment) recently filled the comptroller position that had previously been vacant for approximately two years.

Mr. Schroeder then asked who appointed the position.

Mr. Ryan stated that he believed it was by the city council.

Mr. Schroeder then asked Mr. Ryan to explain what a strategic consulting firm is and if the city had a financial advisor.

Mr. Ryan noted that the strategic consulting firm was hired for holistic budget purposes, including tracking revenues, efficiencies, and to aid in crafting the budget. While Mr. Ryan could not comment specifically if the city had a financial advisor he opined that he could not see a city of this size not utilizing a financial advisor.

Mr. Schroeder then asked if the city had gone to the bond market recently and if their credit rating had been downgraded.

Mr. Ryan noted that he believed the city had a Baa3 rating.

Mr. Driscoll noted that the city was bound by decisions of the past, regarding firefighter and police. He then asked where the discussions with moving forward on converting the waste water treatment plant to a pumping station.

Mr. Ryan noted that the project is moving forward, but is still in its finding phase, and is going to take some time to implement.

Mr. Olczak asked the board to consider **Resolution 2019-03**: Approving the Comprehensive Report for the City of Long Beach.

Mr. Pattison motioned to adopt the resolution. Ms. Destito seconded the motion, and the resolution was unanimously approved, with one abstention from Ms. Hitchen Boyd on behalf of the Comptroller.

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation with a description of the findings and recommendations for the City of Syracuse.

Mr. Olczak then asked for any Board member questions.

Mr. Schroeder asked what the City of Syracuse annual budget is.

Mr. Ryan noted that the general fund is approximately \$245 million for the City and the school district is in the low \$300 million range.

Mr. Schroeder asked if the comptroller and city auditor are elected.

Mr. Ryan noted that the comptroller is elected, and further noted that the city auditor is not.

Ms. Hitchen Boyd noted that the City of Syracuse did not file a financial report so they did not receive a stress designation.

Ms. Creswell asked if the city's smart acquisitions are being done in conjunction with the Bloomberg Philanthropy civil work cities.

Mr. Ryan noted that he did not know, but it would be relayed to the city after the meeting.

Mr. Olczak asked the board to consider **Resolution 2019-04**: Approving the Comprehensive Report for the City of Syracuse.

Mr. Discoll motioned to adopt the resolution. Ms. Destito seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation with a description of the findings and recommendations for the City of Yonkers.

Mr. Olczak asked the board to consider **Resolution 2019-05**: Approving the Comprehensive Report for the City of Yonkers.

Mr. Schroeder motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Pattison seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved, with Ms. Hitchen Boyd abstaining on behalf of the Comptroller.

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the City of Jamestown and recommended to the Board a grant of up to \$1 million to assist the City with various shared services and efficiency initiatives recommended by the Board in its prior report.

Mr. Olczak asked the Board to consider **Resolution 2019-06**: Authorizing various grants for the City of Jamestown.

Ms. Desitito motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Discoll seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the City of Fulton and recommended to the Board a grant of up to \$400,000 to assist the City with various shared services and efficiency initiatives recommended by the Board in its prior report.

Mr. Olczak asked the Board to consider **Resolution 2019-07**: Authorizing various grants for the City of Fulton.

Ms. Desitito motioned to adopt the resolution. Ms. Cresswell seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the City of Dunkirk and recommended to the Board a grant of up to \$125,000 to assist the City with various shared services and efficiency initiatives recommended by the Board in its prior report, and to modify Resolution 2018-01 to help temporarily stabilize the City's 2018, 2019, 2020 finance and tax levy to include a payment of \$307,000 in 2021, which will be subtracted from the \$807,000 payment in 2020.

Mr. Olczak asked the Board to consider **Resolution 2019-08**: Authorizing various grants, and modifications of previous grants, for the City of Dunkirk.

Mr. Pattison motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Driscoll seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the City of Plattsburgh and recommended to the Board a grant of up to \$825,000 to assist the City with various shared services and efficiency initiatives recommended by the Board in its prior report.

Mr. Olczak asked the Board to consider **Resolution 2019-09**: Authorizing various grants for the City of Plattsburgh.

Ms. Destito motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Olczak said the Board would now consider the list of automatic eligibility municipalities provide by the State Comptroller's office.

Mr. Ryan reviewed the Board's criteria for automatic eligibility for the Board's services. He noted that the number of eligible municipalities does not change much from year to year.

Mr. Olczak asked the Board to consider **Resolution No. 2019-10**: Approving the determination of automatically fiscally eligible municipalities.

Mr. Pattison motioned to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Olczak said the Board would now consider the new applicants for a comprehensive review.

Mr. Ryan gave a PowerPoint presentation on the City of Amsterdam and its fiscal state.

Mr. Schroeder asked about the Assembly bill that was approved and how many years the bond would be.

Mr. Ryan noted that the bill had passed the Legislature and that it allowed the City to bond for 10 years.

Mr. Olczak asked the Board to consider **Resolution 2019-11**: Approving the request for a comprehensive review from the City of Amsterdam.

Ms. Destito motioned to adopt the Resolution. Ms. Cresswell seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Olczak motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy T. Ryan  
Secretary.