

MINUTES
Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority
September 22, 2005

Chairman Edward V. Regan called a meeting of the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority (“ECFSA”) to order at 2:07 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, 2005 in the auditorium of Erie Community College City Campus. Notice of the meeting had previously been distributed to all Directors by courier and announced to the public and press.

Directors present: John Johnson, Sheila K. Kee, Stanley J. Keysa, P. David Campbell, Edward V. Regan, Janet Penksa, and Anthony J. Baynes.

Others present included:

Scott Quehl of Public Financial Management, Inc.

Greg Stamm, Esq., Special Counsel

Lee Van Riper, Executive Director

Opening Remarks:

Chairman Ned Regan explained to the board that he encountered Assemblyman Mark Schroeder on the steps as he was walking in and had exchanged words. Chairman Regan wanted to publicly apologize to the Assemblyman and said that he and the Assemblyman will be getting together tomorrow morning.

Chairman Regan welcomed new board member Anthony J. Baynes, who was appointed to replace Carole Stone, who had resigned.

Anthony Baynes characterized himself as a Buffalo businessman and stated he is ready to work to help this board.

Approval of Minutes

Director Johnson moved to approve minutes from August 30, 2005 meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Penksa and unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 05-30

APPROVING MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS FROM AUGUST 30, 2005

BE IT RESOLVED that the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority approves the minutes of its meeting of August 30, 2005 and ratifies and affirms 9 resolutions numbered 05-21 through 05-29 that were approved on August 30, 2005.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

FY 2005 Four-Year Plan

Chairman Regan stated that Scott Quehl was asked at the last meeting about the first four year plan and said that a 2nd version would be released as there are too many TBD's or "to be determined" contained in it. As they uncover and are able to document and authentic more initiatives for restructuring, reforms and savings, those TBD's will be removed. We had a late start by all, and not had a lot of lead-time for a billion dollar county.

Chairman Regan noted that he had attended a Southtown's Rotary meeting this morning, and observed that people feel disappointed with government. They didn't want taxes, they do want reform, and they want a different package. They didn't feel anyone was in charge.

Chairman Regan then noted a variety of areas where action could be taken immediately to start saving money. He stated that he met with Mike Kirwin, from Self Funding, Inc. regarding worker's compensation, which is out of control. Self-funding, Inc. has a contract with the county and has done a lot of work with the county and towns.

Chairman Regan noted we haven't sent a proposal over to the county yet –this isn't exactly how the law read – but we are going to do just that so people have a sense something is happening. He said that, to Joel Giambra's credit, Joel said he moved too hard and too fast and he was correct in laying some people off. We are sending over to Joel Giambra an extension of Self Funding, Inc.'s contract to work a year if the County Legislature approves. We should not have to wait to the first of the year. Within a couple of years we will drop as a \$10 million dollar cost to a \$5 million dollar cost. Kirwan will only work one year and will save more than he is paid in the first year and everything else is a free ride. There are other items that we could also send over before the first of the year. We should be working parallel with the Legislature. Let's work while they are working and holding public meetings.

Lee Van Riper then listed some ideas that we received from PFM, such as centralizing collections and receivable management at a county wide level – with immediate savings of \$800,000.

Chairman Regan asked if there was any reason to wait till January 1, 2006. Mr. Van Riper explained that if approved these proposals could be implemented immediately. Another proposal to do more market-based revenue initiatives including advertising and sale of naming rights that could raise \$100,000 to \$1 million dollars. A third proposal would consolidate county office space for a \$700,000 savings. A fourth proposal would merge emergency services with central police services without downgrading service at all and save a couple hundred thousand. All told, there are 17 initiatives that PFM thinks are ready to go right which could with produce an additional \$3.5 - \$4 million dollars in restructuring. Chairman Regan asked for the board support to send over now then rather wait if everyone approves.

Director Campbell asked if a formal recommendation in writing to the Legislature identifying these 17 items that after significant study they are worth \$3.5 to \$4 million and ask for a response back.

Mr. Van Riper stated that we would formally request consideration starting with worker's comp.

Gregg Stamm suggested ECFSA do so by resolution. These can be done contemporaneous with all other activities of the bodies.

Director Keysa said it would be helpful to review the list of initiatives. Directors Kee and Johnson agreed.

Chairman Regan said he had already voiced support for all of the proposals. Director Kee reminded the Chair that the directors had never taken a vote on the proposals in the FY2005 Four-year plan.

Chairman Regan asked if Mr. VanRiper could send a resolution along with the list for approval by the directors before it is sent to Legislature.

Chairman Regan asked Mr. Quehl to discuss what PFM is going to give the board on October 15th. Mr. Quehl responded that a number of initiatives for fundamental restructuring were re-evaluated for savings or cost recovery and found to have a much larger impact than what was discussed at the last meeting. The number of initiatives and the fiscal impact of those initiatives as presented in the FY-06 four-year plan, which will be submitted along with the budget, will be larger than what has been shared in the FY-05 plan.

Chairman Regan asked Mr. Stamm the procedure to get these initiatives in front of the County Executive and Legislature. Mr. Stamm stated that the first set of initiatives after the board has sent their approvals could go over immediately. As for the October 15 date, a lot will be happening all at once. The law was structured in a fashion that makes the jobs of the authority, the legislature and the executive much more difficult at a time when initiatives and ways to implement them come together at the same time. They are creating a budget for 2006 at the same time when ECFSA is supposed to be getting from the county a plan that ECFSA approves or which they have to modify if ECFSA doesn't approve. It is a process that will continue to overlap and requires a lot of cooperation from everyone. Before October 15th, documents will be coming back and forth and there will be a need for meetings on a daily basis until the 2006 budget and next four-year plan gets finalized. If that process works out in an amicable and friendly way, ECFSA can remain an advisory board.

Chairman Regan said he hoped all agree that ECFSA should remain advisory and hopes that leaves plenty of space for good will and legislative and county executive enactment of initiatives on their own without having us have to do more than provide them with the best thinking.

Mr. Quehl stated that, based on their role as technical advisor with years of experience, there are more savings to be achieved in the millions of dollars beyond which have been identified. When asked to quantify, Mr. Quehl said "Many millions."

Director Kee commented on the need to focus on Medicaid, noting that the plan had only about \$250,000 in savings when the total budget is \$198 million. She recognized the limited time which had been available to develop proposals, but said there are great opportunities to save dollars in the areas of disease management and pharmaceutical management. She would like to set up pilot projects and be able to capture saving for a six month period and then expand the pilots

and save millions of dollars. Ms. Kee thought there were further but lesser savings available in long-term health care.

Chairman Regan said PFM should cost out initiatives which require action by the state legislature and hopes to have those ready shortly, and sent to the State Legislators as they will have special session in November. He emphasized: **“The public wants to see action!”**

Director Penksa asked: if the initiatives were implemented now, could Mr. Quehl quantify the impact on the 2005 and 2006 budgets? She opined that, if these initiatives are implemented now, the county would get full year savings earlier. She suggested that, when we issue resolutions asking support from the County Legislature and County Executive, we should estimate the impact on the 2005 and 2006 budgets, because they would lower property taxes and lower deficit financing. Mr. Quehl said it was a fantastic recommendation and will do it.

Discussion took place regarding how many initiatives to send over at one time to the County Legislature. Director Campbell thought it would be better to send one or two initiatives to see if they can get implemented. Director Johnson thought all of them should be sent over to show that we have an obligation to save and reduce the tax burden. Director Campbell asked about the amount of savings and Mr. Van Riper explained that worker’s compensation alone was \$3.5 - \$5 million in savings and the other initiatives were in the \$100,000 to half million range. Director Penksa suggested that if the initiatives can be implemented by the County Executive and does not need legislative approval, they should be sent immediately, not limited to the 17. Director Keysa would like them to be prioritized by the ones with most benefit. Director Kee didn’t want to confuse the process – she stated the County Legislature has the FY ‘05 four-year plan with these initiatives in it and in essence we are asking them to take some out and start implementing them. Director Baynes agreed with Director Penksa and said they should all go now. Chair Regan said he would leave it to Lee Van Riper to set up the list for review by the Board and the process for sending these to the County Legislature.

Director Keysa asked that any correspondence that goes out from the Chairman be added as a separate section to the minutes, titled: “correspondence since last meeting.” Chairman Regan agreed and stated that we would do that.

Chairman Regan commented on the exceptional work done by the County Executive and PFM on the four-year plan and asked Mr. Quehl to take us thru this plan. Mr. Quehl introduced Nancy Winkler of PFM who introduced key members of their team and outlined their qualifications and training. Those introduced included Randy Bauer, Virginia Rutledge, and Bob Winthrop. Mr. Quehl then outlined some of the broad themes. PFM’s role was to take the best ideas presented by the County Executive and senior management and to make sure they can be implemented. PFM is going to ensure the credibility of those numbers. This is an on-going process and assumes that fundamental restructuring will take place.

Bob Winthrop of PFM spoke on the consolidation of emergency services with central police services. He also noted that the State Attorney General in informal opinion #8162 has stated the Sheriff’s road patrol is not a mandated function. The County Attorney is looking into whether that is the correct interpretation. In 2004, 68 officers and two civilians responded to 35,000

calls. Of these, 80% were in areas where the Sheriff provides the primary policing services. That constitutes only 13 percent of the population, but the other 87 % of county residents pay \$196 per capital for primary police services. He suggested that these rural and suburban jurisdictions should be charged for these services. Springville has the only contract with the Sheriff, for 20 hours of service a day with a patrol car.

Director Keysa commented that Erie County is a metropolitan county with a great variety of densities. He said that, over the years, as the urban areas needed special treatment, there had been vote trades with the rural communities. For example, in the early 1930's, long before the state made welfare a county responsibility, the City of Buffalo had sought county takeover of its responsibilities in a trade for take over of local roads in the rural towns. Services were provided in rural community as equity offset for the contribution that the rural community were making to the welfare costs for the City of Buffalo. Another example is the county's furnishing of nurses in city schools; elsewhere in the county, the rural and suburban school districts pay for their own school nurses.

Keysa said there were a number of offsets and we should be not looking at them in isolation from what had been the trade offs in equity contribution towards county taxes.

Mr. Quehl stated that today is today and we need to pay for them now and this is one initiative that is very difficult to justify.

Chairman Regan stated that the Director Keysa gave us excellent lessons with the problems of metropolitan government. PFM has identified this as an imbalance with lots of money is expended for 13% of the people. The suggestion now goes to the County Legislature for the elected officials to resolve it. It is a question of achieving a clear savings versus how we want our metropolitan government to work.

Mr. Quehl remarked about the justice component of this plan. A key pressure point is the jail. There is a tangle of multiple stakeholders that need to be involved in maintaining public safety and standards of justice. There are a series of initiatives that would need to be done in concert to appropriately attack the question of spending at the jail. In response to a question from Chairman Regan, Mr. Quehl said this is an area where PFM will be spending a lot more time before October 15th for more savings.

Director Kee said the state corrections department has mandated that 80 positions be restored or added and asked: "how does this plan deal with this mandate?" Mr. Quehl responded that the cost needed for the officers is unavoidable unless you can find prudent ways to lower the population so that you don't need 82 officers. That number was created due to the swelling population of the jail and that is due in part to the probation officers being laid off. Over time, probation can be done more efficiently. The FY-06 plan put out on October 15 will outline further initiatives in this field.

Director Johnson asked if relief would come from hiring back probation officers because of a potential revenue-producing aspect or if sources of funding coming from another government. Mr. Quehl stated that if you hire back probation officers, you can reduce jail costs. Likewise, you hire back people to combat Medicaid fraud and abuse, or staff at the auto bureau because

the revenue is not being produced. Director Johnson would like PFM to look at the Youth and Detention Service. There are state laws that mandate the stay of youth who have been adjudicated or waiting adjudication be in detention services on limited bases. Most counties are going beyond that period. Erie County could have some substantial savings if they would just adhere to the 45-day limit and cut down on the costs in the youth detention area.

Randy Bauer of PFM discussed their plan for work force initiatives. The plan is similar to the type of menu options for attacking the issues of wages, compensation and other benefits and providing flexibility for making choices from within that plan for savings. Implementation requires involving the labor unions, as 90% of the county's workforce is unionized. Mr. Quehl recommended every director read the section on this, as it is very detailed. \$9.8 million in potential savings were identified for 2006, \$20.8 in 2007, \$29 in 2008, and \$35.7 in 2009. However, he said it would not meet the test of prudence to put in labor savings in a budget document that is not under the control of management.

Mr. Quehl spoke on the fundamental restructuring of parks. PFM contemplates two phases in this approach. The first is to take what we have and make it more efficient and the second is to get out of the business and form a regional parks conservancy.

Randy Bauer of PFM spoke on the health and social services component, which is particularly complicated in New York State. The local Medicaid share is \$187 million. Some initiatives were to augment the workforce in this area to deal with fraud and abuse. PFM has made recommendations for adding back positions; for every dollar invested, ten dollars is saved. Reduction of the non-elderly population in residential treatment facilities would expand treatment alternatives and remove younger patients from a very expensive way of providing treatment. Other initiatives would increase use of disease management, pharmaceutical management, case management and integrating case management. Mr. Quehl is facilitating a meeting with the commissioners and the county executive to undertake this effort.

Virginia Rutledge of PFM spoke on the financial stewardship review and how different processes and information flow, how financial management uses that information, and what the county was going to need to manage going forward. They have come up with a number of suggestions for improving the reporting process. Budget reports need to be timely. The monitoring reports need to have accurate information, issued at least on quarterly basis, with rolling year-end forecasts. The monthly budget numbers must be meaningful, not simply dividing by 1/12th. All of the reports should also make comments about what any situation does in terms of year-end fund balance. The county needs to adopt real fund balance targets. The Government Finance Officers Association and others suggest a 5% fund balance target. The focus is on general fund, although that is not the only county fund, as it impacts activity in the other funds. Having staffing information and organizing financial functions in one place is essential.

Director Keysa said he approved of the 5% fund balance goal, noting that he and Chairman Regan had had discussions on the appropriate amount nearly 28 years ago.

Director Kee asked which recommendation should be embodied in county charter and administrative code to hopefully assure compliance not just today but over the long term. Ms.

Rutledge said at the top of the list should be budget practices, regularly reporting fiscal information, and having a fund balance policy with real targets and structural balance.

Director Campbell asked if the county has the systems in place to actually manage a billion dollar organization. “Do we have the capability in place to generate and control the information needed?” Ms. Rutledge stated that the county has great computer systems and has the ability to do a monthly budget. SAP is the installed computer software system. However, reports are not being done monthly and not even regularly. Director Campbell asked if there were any checks and balances in place to prevent departments from overspending. Ms. Rutledge stated that there are checks and balances in place but adhering to the budget isn’t the problem if revenues are not coming in.

Director Keysa commented on the suggestion to centralize assessment and collection. He noted that there is an intricate interrelationship between the local city/town governments (which assess for the county and school districts) and the county (which maintains tax maps, the centralized computer system, and prints bills for itself and all local taxing authorities.) He said that the county’s attempt at centralized assessments in the mid 1980’s was a fiasco, which necessitated the cities and towns to undertake supervision of the county’s failed program, with the county still being the contract party. Collections are done at town level, bills are prepared by the county for towns, town and county taxes are collected together, and the villages collect their own taxes with preparation by county. The county does not pay for that collection except within the City of Buffalo. Keysa asked, “Where do you see the savings in centralized assessment and centralized collection of those taxes and would they be collecting the local government shares?” Mr. Quehl said they were really focusing on the multiplicity of departments which have their own fees and responsibility for collections, and not at a centralized effort involving local governments. “The goal is to improve collection of receivables.”

Director Johnson stated that he did not see in the FY ’05 four-year plan an initiative in the human service area integrating the planning processes. He thought there could be is a considerable amount of savings in the health, mental health, youth services, probation, social services all integrating their planning processes that would have an impact on workforce size and thus produce savings. In other ancillary services, such as computers, each department is duplicating the other. Randy Bauer said the last initiative in the book covers this and the SAP system.

Director Keysa suggested integration of intake with an agreement between departments so there is one-stop intake with one form that has information common to all likely human service organizations.

Chairman Regan thanked PFM staff and Mr. Quehl for their presentations and Director Keysa said we should send these initiatives to the Legislature now.

TIMELINE

Chairman Regan went through the timetable and asked everyone to be flexible on the dates for ECFSA to be ready to meet.

ECMC discussion

Chairman Regan stated that ECMCC hospital is a great institution that serves the public well and must stay, but there has been confusion with the media coverage. He asked David Campbell to chair a committee of this group and report back to the board. Director Campbell reported the ECMC is a key item contributing to the fiscal instability of the county, and we need to come to a resolution. He said he had met with President Michael Young and County Executive Giambra and that dialogue is on-going. We need to get all the involved parties together. Mr. Campbell asked for volunteers from the directors to see him after meeting to join his committee. Mr. Stamm said no resolution is needed to form this ad hoc committee.

Resolution to amend RFP guidelines

Mr. Stamm informed the board the five RFP's have been placed in the Contract Reporter as directed at the last meeting. One thing that was missing was authorizing three-year agreements instead of one-year as established in the procurement guidelines. Mr. Stamm said these agreements can be cancelled at any time.

A motion to approve a change to three-year terms was made by Director Penksa and seconded by Director Campbell. Discussion took place with Director Kee stating we should stay with the one-year term in place to make sure we are getting the best deal for our investment. Mr. Stamm remarked that we are not hiring any one at this time. However, by offering a three-year term, the prospective contractors can lock in their costs for three years and we get the benefit of lower costs. ECFSA has the authority to terminate any of these contracts at any time. Director Kee asked that she be provided a copy of the RFP's and said the board should have seen them before they went out. Mr. Stamm stated that the Division of Budget reviewed and approved the RFPs. Director Keysa informed the board that his experience with three-year terms was that they promoted efficiency in the use of staff time.

A vote was taken, in which all voted aye, except Sheila Kee, who was opposed. The motion was declared duly adopted.

Resolution –05-31

AUTHORIZING THREE YEAR AGREEMENTS FOR CERTAIN PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority (“ECFSA”) was formed by Chapter 182 of the Laws of 2005, as amended, to “oversee the county’s budget, financial and capital plans; to issue bonds, notes or other obligations to achieve budgetary savings and to finance short-term cash flow or capital needs; and if necessary, to develop financial plans on behalf of the county if the county is unwilling or unable to take the required steps toward fiscal stability;” and

WHEREAS, the procurement guidelines adopted by the Directors of the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority (“ECFSA”) specifies that all contracts for personal services be limited to one year unless the Authority Directors by resolution determine that a longer contract is in the best interest of the Authority;

WHEREAS, Requests for Proposals (“RFPs”) have been prepared for solicitation of financial advisor, bond and disclosure counsel, senior managing and co-managing underwriters, independent auditor and legal services; and

WHEREAS, the RFPs have been prepared for terms of up to three years to provide for the most efficient and cost effective responses;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECFSA determines that any contracts through the RFP process described above are authorized at terms of up to three years.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution to amend Lee Van Riper as Executive Director

Mr. Stamm spoke about the need to simply amend the resolution from the August 30, 2005 meeting making Lee Van Riper the Executive Director in an effort to conserve resources. Mr. Van Riper will perform the responsibilities of the executive director and the deputy director with a salary of \$110,000, for an annualized savings of \$80,000. Mr. Stamm noted that this is the same salary as paid to the executive director of the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority

Director Penksa made a motion to amend the resolution to appointing Leroy Van Riper as the Executive Director, seconded by David Campbell. Director Campbell expressed his pleasure with the work that Lee has done. Chairman Regan made a request to have Lee do a weekly email update to all members. Mr. Van Riper stated that the office (295 Main Street, Suite 948-950, Buffalo, New York 14203) was now equipped with computers and that the new phone number of the authority is 716-847-7184 and fax number is 847-7192. With no further discussion, a vote was taken and the resolution was unanimously approved.

Resolution 05-32

APPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT OF LEROY VAN RIPER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority (“ECFSA”) was formed by Chapter 182 of the Laws of 2005, as amended, to “oversee the county’s budget, financial and capital plans; to issue bonds, notes or other obligations to achieve budgetary savings and to finance short-term cash flow or capital needs; and if necessary, to develop financial plans on behalf of the county if the county is unwilling or unable to take the required steps toward fiscal stability”; and

WHEREAS, the ECFSA will require professional staff to assist in performing its mission; and

WHEREAS, the ECFSA is required by Chapter 182 of the Laws of 2005, as amended, to commence operations immediately and to receive a four year financial plan for the County of Erie not later than October 1, 2005 and act upon such plan not later than 15 days after its submission by the County, and to receive and act upon a four-year financial plan submitted with the County Executive’s 2006 fiscal year budget proposal and any revisions thereto; and

WHEREAS, LeRoy Van Riper is well qualified for the position of Executive Director, possessing training and experience that will allow him to immediately commence the duties of

Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, LeRoy Van Riper is recommended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECFSA offers the position of Executive Director to **LeRoy Van Riper** subject to terms and conditions of employment as determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Authority.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ECIDA

Mr. Stamm informed the board that the County Executive's office made a request that we clarify the situation of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA). At our last meeting, former counsel had prepared a list of covered organizations. Although the ECIDA is clearly a covered organization under the statute, it was recommended that it be exempt because there is no direct payment of moneys. ECIDA would like a resolution so it can continue its dealings without having to be concerned about whether or not ECIDA is in fact going to be covered. Mr. Stamm recommended it be exempt. Director Keysa asked if the prior annual subsidy has ended, and was told it had been terminated.

Director Penksa asked if ECIDA does their own bonding or does the county do the bonding and are they separate projects. Mr. Rubin, previously Commission of Environment and Planning and incoming County Attorney was asked to clarify from the floor and stated that, as a matter of law, the county is immune from liability from any bond issued by ECIDA and there are no projects owned by the county which have been financed through ECIDA bonds. Director Campbell asked why we needed to exclude them. Mr. Rubin stated that the exemption would allow the county to not include them in the FY'06 four-year plan. The statue allows you to withdraw the exemption and bring them back in. Director Keysa asked if the Erie County Soil and Conservation District was exempt or not. Mr. Stamm stated there was not enough activity to warrant any action.

Motion was made by Director Johnson to remove the ECIDA from being a covered organization, seconded by Director Keysa, and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 05-33

ERIE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ECIDA) IS NOT A COVERED ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority ("ECFSA") was formed by Chapter 182 of the Laws of 2005, as amended, to "oversee the county's budget, financial and capital plans; to issue bonds, notes or other obligations to achieve budgetary savings and to finance short-term cash flow or capital needs; and if necessary, to develop financial plans on behalf of the county if the county is unwilling or unable to take the required steps toward fiscal stability"; and

WHERE AS, the ECIDA is not receiving any subsidies or other monies from the County of Erie, although they remain a covered organization, they shall be exempt from the requirements of inclusion in the Four-Year Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECIDA is exempt from the requirement of inclusion in the Four-Year plan.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Other Business

Director Kee passed out proposed amendments to the procurement policies which would limit contracts to one year and eliminate Section 404 of the procurement guidelines, allowing the sole source or single source basis for emergency or extraordinary circumstances. Mr. Van Riper stated that resolutions were passed at the initial board meeting on a sole source, emergency basis for the start up costs of the consultants. Traditionally, these procedures are for emergency situations, when you need an out to hire someone immediately without going through an RFP process. Mr. Stamm stated the approval guidelines would be unlikely to be used again and that you would need written approval from the directors of the authority to do so. It is also a protection for the authority in case of an emergency. Director Keysa stated if the board wanted to they could suspend the bylaws and do a sole-source contract. Mr. Stamm suggested that directors review Ms. Kee's proposals and consider them at the next meeting.

Director Johnson asked if the RFP's we sent out were approved by the State Comptroller's office. Mr. Van Riper informed the board that, as a public benefit corporation, we are not required to do so, but that he believed the proposals do meet the current standards of the Comptroller. Director Johnson cautioned the board to be careful, that the NYS Comptroller's office is the steward of contracts, and that state contract rules could prevail. Chairman Regan suggested that we look into this issue and make sure the language is satisfactory.

Adjournment

At 4:28 p.m., Director Baynes moved to adjourn, seconded by Director Johnson, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Stanley Jay Keysa,
ECFSA Secretary*