

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held in Room 1B of the Legislative Office Building on May 18, 2005.

**PRESENT:** Lieutenant Governor Kevin Sullivan  
Nancy Wyman, State Comptroller  
Howard Rifkin, Deputy State Treasurer  
Senator Toni Harp  
Senator David Cappiello  
Representative Denise Merrill  
Representative Peter Tercyak  
Representative Arthur O'Neill  
Robert L. Genuario, Secretary and Clerk,  
Office of Policy & Management  
John Bacewicz, Executive Budget Officer, Office of  
Policy & Management, Budget and Financial Management Division

**ABSENT:** Governor M. Jodi Rell

Lieutenant Governor Sullivan called the meeting to order at 12:20 P.M.

1. Lieutenant Governor Sullivan noted the change in the taking of the minutes of the meeting and asked that the Office of Policy & Management FAC website be updated. Lieutenant Governor Sullivan also commented that despite the language contained in the justification for many of the FAC requests, there was no mandated deadline for passage of the Deficiency Bill, therefore, its passage cannot be considered delayed. It was then voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 5, 2005.
2. The following new transactions were approved by the Committee:

**FAC 2005-30 – Department of Veterans' Affairs** –A transfer of \$850,000 from Personal Services to Other Expenses to provide the necessary cash flow that will allow payment of goods and services purchased by the Department.

There was no discussion on this item and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**FAC 2005-31 – Department of Information Technology** – A transfer of \$1,187,000 from Personal Services to Other Expenses due to higher than anticipated costs for Business Office Support Systems and Automated Personnel Systems.

There was no discussion on this item and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**FAC 2005-32 – Department of Public Safety** – A transfer of \$4,000,000 from Personal Services to Other Expenses which recognizes a shortfall in the account and for necessary energy related expenses.

- Lieutenant Governor Sullivan expressed concern regarding the carryforward of unpaid bills from FY04. Secretary Genuario responded that the carry forward of bills was attributable largely to motor vehicle fuel and maintenance expenditures that were not processed prior to the close of the fiscal year.
- Commissioner Boyle indicated that \$1.16 million in bills were carried forward due to inability to process payments in CORE prior to the close of the fiscal year. attributed
- Deputy Treasurer Rifkin noted there have been several previous FAC items that recognize the same issue.
- Comptroller Wyman noted that the books must be closed every year before June 30<sup>th</sup>. The carrying forward of bills from prior fiscal years is an annual issue that agencies face and is not only due to CORE.
- Lieutenant Governor Sullivan noted that DPS closed FY 2004 with a considerable lapse and without an ensuing carry forward. Also noted was the exhaustion of Other Expenses funds in Quarter 3 of the fiscal year and that the need for a carry forward should have been recognized earlier.
- Secretary Genuario indicated that the need for a carry forward would have to be identified earlier to fit within the session timeframe. The Lieutenant Governor suggests that this should not reoccur. Secretary Genuario indicated that OPM will make its best effort in avoiding a reoccurrence.

This item was unanimously approved by the Committee

**FAC 2005-33 – Department of Mental Retardation** – A transfer of \$6,200,000 to various accounts for cash flow purposes.

- Representative Tercyak asked if this FAC action, which included the funding of \$3,700,000 for Community Residential Services, was related to any new Community Living Arrangement (CLA) conversions.
- Commissioner O’Meara responded that there were no new conversions contemplated and that these funds were to cover the CLA conversions which occurred in FY 04 as well as the unanticipated costs associated with services to be provided to individuals aging-out of the DCF service system (Ageouts).

This item was unanimously approved by the Committee

**FAC 2005-34 – Department of Transportation** – A transfer of \$5,000,000 from Rail Operations to Other Expenses and Handicapped Access Program to process payments immediately.

- Senator Harp questioned, for her general understanding, (1) if the Handicapped Access Program was a Federal Mandate and whether or not Federal funding has been received to help with the program, and (2) how this affects Dial-A-Ride money—is money diverted away from Dial-A-Ride.

- Bob Card from the Department of Transportation explained the Federal Mandate for the Handicapped Access Program.
- Senator Harp then asked how the program budget is constructed, given that it also receives Federal Funds.
- Bob Card stated that it is difficult to forecast since it grows at an exponential rate and is a “product of its own success.”
- Senator Harp stated her frustration in terms of Dial-A-Ride and how funding is taken away from it and also noted that next year, the budget for these accounts in question should be more accurately and appropriately prepared.

This item was unanimously approved by the Committee

**FAC 2005-35 – Public Defender Services** – A transfer of \$500,000 from Personal Services to Special Public Defender Non Contract and Expert Witness accounts.

- Lieutenant Governor Sullivan requested an explanation of the reason for the deficiencies. Gerry Smythe, Chief Public Defender, responded citing the increase in caseloads, and the increase in volume and cost of psychiatric and forensic professionals.
- Lieutenant Governor Sullivan also questioned whether the deficiency was related to the expenditures for the Michael Ross case. Gerry Smythe responded that approximately \$13,600 was expended in the Expert Witness line item for 2 psychiatrists, which examined Ross’ competency at the request of the special counsel.
- Lieutenant Governor Sullivan inquired about the expenses to support the special counsel, Groark. Smythe indicated that payment of such expenses is handled by the Judicial Department.

This item was unanimously approved by the Committee

3. The meeting was then adjourned at 12:43 P.M.

Robert L. Genuario  
Clerk