

State Tax Panel

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 29, 2015

3:00 PM in Room 2B of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Chairman Dyson

The following committee members were present:

Bill Dyson, Bill Nickerson, Sen. Frantz, Rep. Davis, Sec. Barnes, Cmsr. Sullivan, Anika Singh Lemar, Lou Schatz, Tiana Gianopulos, Alan Clavette, John Elsesser, Al Casella, Marian Galbraith, Bill Breetz, Melinda Agsten, and David Nee.

Absent were:

Don Marchand, Robert Testo, Howard K. Hill, Rep. Berger, Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Sharkey, and Sen. Looney.

Chairman Dyson welcomed panel members and members of the audience to the meeting and reminded everyone of the agenda at hand. He then introduced David LaVasseaur and Shirley Corona from the Office of Policy and Management, who proceeded with a presentation OPM produced regarding taxes.

THE SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION IS ON FILE IN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OFFICE AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE STATE TAX PANEL'S WEBSITE.

Chairman Dyson reminded panel members that they are free to ask questions during the presentation and asked the delegation from OPM to produce a document with materials that panel members requested. Chairman Dyson also noted that he had to depart for the day due to a class that was previously scheduled at Central Connecticut State University.

Chairman Nickerson introduced Department of Revenue Services Commissioner Kevin Sullivan, who proceeded to introduce his staff, Lou Bucari, Susan Sherman, and Ernie

Adamo, to the tax panel members. Commissioner Sullivan and Mr. Bucari then led the DRS presentation.

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After the presentation, Chairman Nickerson explained that a Request for Proposal went out following the conclusion of the last panel meeting. He explained that the Office of Legislative Management authorized OPM to execute the search and that interviews with final candidates were held in December. He then explained that the committee leadership decided to recommend Robert Ebel to the membership for the role of consultant to the committee. Secretary Barnes and Commissioner Sullivan confirmed that Mr. Ebel was vetted by both OPM and DRS.

A motion to authorize OPM to pursue a consulting contract with Mr. Ebel was made by Cmsr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Clavette. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Mr. Schatz asked if it was a concern that Mr. Ebel had no previous experience in dealing with Connecticut taxes.

Chairman Nickerson responded that his inexperience in Connecticut was seen as a positive attribute since he will be able to enter his role with an open mind.

Mr. Schatz asked that Mr. Ebel's previous studies be made available.

Sec. Barnes responded that OPM will distribute them for panel members.

There being no more business for the panel a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 PM.

Mary E. Finnegan

Finance Committee Administrator

Billy Taylor

Finance Committee Clerk