MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held in Room 1E at the Legislative Office Building, on June 5, 2013.

PRESENT: Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman
Deputy Comptroller Martha Carlson
Deputy Treasurer Christine Shaw
Senator Tony Harp
Senator Robert Kane
Representative Patricia Billie Miller
Representative Elaine O'Brien
Deputy Secretary Karen Buffkin
Office of Policy and Management, Finance Advisory Committee Clerk

Lieutenant Governor Wyman called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

The minutes of the May 2, 2013 meeting were adopted unanimously.

The following new transactions were considered by the committee:

FAC 2013-19 – Department of Agriculture. Increase in the agency's authorized full-time position count from 48 to 49.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2013-20 – Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Transfer of $2,150,000 from various accounts to the Workers' Compensation Claims, Professional Services and Other Expenses accounts to make funds available to cover expenditures with projected shortfalls.

The shortfall in the Professional Services account resulting from the state's inability to recruit for psychiatrists generated a question from Senator Kane regarding putting the services out to bid. Deputy Commissioner Paul DiLeo explained the difficulty in recruiting is not uncommon and providers are also experiencing similar challenges as fewer doctors are entering the psychiatry field. He also explained that, while the situation has somewhat improved, the department has begun residency programs with UCONN and Yale to further address the issue.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2013-21 – Department of Transportation. Under the authority of Section 25-83 of the General Statutes, this item would provide assurances to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the State of Connecticut will hold and save the United States free from claims or damages resulting from dredging and maintenance of Norwalk Harbor.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2013-22 – Department of Transportation. Similar to the previous agenda item, this item would provide assurances to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the State of Connecticut will hold and save the United States free from claims or damages resulting from dredging and maintenance of Wethersfield Cove.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2013-23 – Department of Transportation. Transfer of $2,700,000 from the Personal Services and Transit Improvement Programs accounts to the Bus Operations and Other Expenses accounts to cover higher than anticipated costs for heating oil, highway supplies, equipment repair, bus operations and insurance claims.

In response to a question from Senator Kane, Robert Card from DOT explained that the Bus Operations account funds support for the transit districts, maintaining the bus fleet and providing subsidies, and administering municipal grant programs.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2013-24 - Department of Social Services. Transfer of $146,714,062 among various accounts to meet anticipated end of year requirements.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2013-25 - Department of Education. Transfer of $5,257,000 among various accounts to cover end of year requirements.

Brian Mahoney, CFO at SDE, provided a brief overview of the per pupil rate structure for the Open Choice program in response to a question about the amount of the per pupil grant for the program.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2013-26 – Public Defender Services Commission. Transfer of $240,000 from the Personal Services and Contracted Attorneys Related Expenses accounts to the Assigned Counsel - Criminal account to cover the implementation of a more efficient system to assign habeas cases and process associated assigned counsel billings.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buffkin
Clerk