



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR  
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**Meeting Minutes**

**Debt Affordability Committee**

**July 17, 2020**

**12:30 pm**

**Executive Office for Administration and Finance**

**WebEx: URL: <https://www.webex.com>; Meeting ID: 129 351 6738; Password: DAC071720**

**Teleconference: Conference line: 1-617-315-0704; Access code: 129 351 6738**

A meeting of the Debt Affordability Committee was held on Friday, July 17, 2020, pursuant to notice duly given, and in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20, signed and dated March 12, 2020, was held via WebEx and teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm.

**Board members comprising a quorum:**

Kaitlyn Connors, Executive Office for Administration & Finance  
Sue Perez, Office of the Treasurer and Receiver-General  
Catherine Walsh, Governor's Appointee, Northeastern University  
Michael Butler, Treasurer's Appointee  
Michelle Ho, Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
Howard Merkowitz, Office of the Comptroller

**Others in attendance:**

William Archibald, Executive Office for Administration & Finance  
Representative David Vieira, House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets

**Minutes:**

Ms. Connors introduced herself as the new designee of the Secretary of Administration and Finance and called the meeting to order. Upon a motion by Ms. Ho, and duly seconded by Mr. Merkowitz, the Committee voted to adopt the minutes from the December 13, 2019 meeting.

Ms. Connors then began with an overview of the responsibilities of the Committee, provided a recap of last year's Committee recommendation, and summarized the statutory and administrative limits on direct

debt for FY21 and FY22, as well as the sources and considerations the Committee uses to inform its estimate. Ms. Connors mentioned to the group that she is open to any additional resources or information that the Committee would like to consider in its estimate.

Ms. Connors also indicated that the bond cap cited within the Commonwealth's Capital Investment Plan FY21 was \$2.46B, or slightly less than the Committee's recommendation of \$2.53B for FY21 bond cap.

Ms. Connors also laid out the Committee's framework for a draft work plan to determine an FY22 recommendation. Ms. Walsh agreed that this was a good work plan. Ms. Perez asked why the Committee needs to consider the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Capital Investment Plan as part of the Committee's work plan in September. Ms. Connors responded that she would look into this further. Ms. Ho agreed on the draft schedule and timing of the work plan, but cautioned that there might not be an operating budget in place before September.

Ms. Perez also cautioned that the full revenue impact of the COVID-19 pandemic might not be fully realized by the time the Committee needs to consider it within their model by December. As a suggestion, Ms. Connors recommended inviting someone from the Department of Revenue attend a Committee meeting as a guest to run through the state revenue numbers, perhaps in a few months' time. Mr. Merkowitz recommended Dr. Kazim Ozyurt. Ms. Connors also brought up the possibility of inviting other experts as well.

Ms. Connors continued by providing an overview of the Commonwealth's current debt portfolio. Ms. Perez and Ms. Ho provided input on the Commonwealth's outstanding debt numbers, contract assistance requirements, and contingent liabilities.

All Committee members agreed that the slide deck put together last year provided a good overview of the scope of the Committee and the considerations for the Committee's recommendations. Representative Vieira agreed that this document was helpful for his purposes as well.

Ms. Connors announced that the next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2020, at 1:30pm.

There were no further questions/matters.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.