



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO



MERIT RATING BOARD MEETING

Transportation Board Room
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA
April 16, 2020
11:00 a.m.

This meeting was livestreamed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board members participated remotely by phone.

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair Jamey Tesler, Director Gary Anderson, and Director Glenn Kaplan

OTHER PARTICIPANTS: Owen Kane and Paul Franzese

Proceedings:

Chairperson Tesler called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and asked Owen Kane, Senior Board Counsel if the MRB received any written public comments, there were none.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

Director Gary Anderson
Director Glenn Kaplan
Chair Jamey Tesler

VOTED: to approve the minutes of February 6, 2020.

Chair Tesler called upon Interim MRB Director Paul Franzese to give his report. Mr. Franzese said the MRB was continuing to perform critical traffic

citations and insurance service functions. He noted that to protect the health and safety of the public, customers and staff, the MRB was requiring services to be performed online, by mail, or by phone.

Mr. Franzese stated the MRB was taking additional steps to better ensure the safety of its staff and customers by providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff in offices, addressing requests for technology and equipment for staff working from home, and opened a temporary MRB office location in the vacant Braintree service center to provide redundancy in operations. Mr. Franzese continued to discuss in detail the PPE and cleaning measures the MRB was following.

Mr. Franzese updated the Board on the Distracted Driving/Hands-Free Law noting 139 offense citations had been issued since April 1. He said police were still issuing citations during the pandemic and the MRB provided a critical function, noting it would be processing warnings for the first time in 10-years.

Mr. Franzese continued his report on the status and progress of the quality control work queues from August 2019 to April 2020. He noted that the Grant Thornton Report estimated it would take two years to clean out the 22,500 open work items in the queue, and as of today the work had been completed and staff was presently processing the queue and citations on a daily basis. Mr. Franzese thanked the staff and the courts for their hard work, and the Board

members thanked everyone at the MRB for their extraordinary efforts in completing this work.

The next agenda item was an update on the search for a permanent director of the MRB, and Chair Tesler noted that in the past Boris Lazik, Chief of Human Resources had given the update. Since Mr. Lazik has left MassDOT, the Chair asked Owen Kane to update the Board on the search.

Mr. Kane said the MRB created the Preliminary Screening Committee, consisting of Arwen Thoman, Michael Powers and Paul Franzese, to review the job applications and conduct preliminary interviews of candidates. The goal of the committee was to identify multiple candidates that they could recommend to the Board. Mr. Kane said that from November through early February, the Committee met approximately six times and interviewed nine candidates. The Committee declined to recommend any of the first nine for interviews by the full Board. At the Board's direction, the Committee was tasked with re-writing the job description and reposting it to get the best possible candidates for the position. Mr. Kane said that from February through early April, 35 applications were received, and at the February 6 MRB meeting, Paul Franzese resigned from the Preliminary Screening Committee and applied for the permanent Director position.

Mr. Kane said the Committee and HR continued to review applications and interviewed one final candidate. The Committee, which now included Matt

Landry, declined to recommend that candidate, and did not interview Mr. Franzese, not because the Committee did not feel he met the minimum requirements, but because he clearly met the requirements.

Mr. Kane noted the Preliminary Screening Committee had reviewed more than 120 resumes and applications, had pre-screened approximately a third of those, personally interviewed 11 candidates and was now prepared to recommend Paul Franzese to lead the Merit Rating Board as Director.

The Board members agreed Mr. Franzese possessed the skill, expertise, experience and determination needed to lead the MRB and credited Paul for his efforts and work ethic.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

**Director Gary Anderson
Director Glenn Kaplan
Chair Jamey Tesler**

VOTED: To appoint Paul Franzese as Director of the Merit Rating Board.

At the conclusion of the meeting and after discussion with the Board members, Chair Tesler noted the agenda items for the next meeting would include updates from the Inspector General and MassDOT's Internal Audit Division, and updates from the Director on citations and the changes in the volume of daily business during this Covid-19 pandemic.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

**Director Gary Anderson
Director Glenn Kaplan
Chair Jamey Tesler**

VOTED: to adjourn at 11:31 a.m.

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

Minutes from February 6, 2020

Interim Director's Report: Merit Rating Board Meeting April 16, 2020