



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



Merit Rating Board Meeting
November 20, 2019

MINUTES

At the call of the Chair, Acting Registrar of Motor Vehicles Jamey Tesler, a meeting of the Merit Rating Board was called to order at 1:03 p.m. at the State Transportation Building, Transportation Board Room, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts.

Also present were board members Gary Anderson, Insurance Commissioner and Assistant Attorney General Glenn Kaplan, designee of Attorney General Maura Healey.

Others present were Paul Franzese, Joanne Norman, Boris Lazic, Sheila Mulcahy, and Owen Kane.

Acting Registrar Tesler opened up the public comment session (there were no speakers).

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the October 30, 2019 meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Tesler noted for the record the approved minutes would be posted on the MassDOT website upon approval.

Before Chair Tesler got to the actual agenda, he asked Paul Franzese to update the Board on how the MRB experienced the rollout of Atlas 2, which had been well under way since November 12. Mr. Franzese said the rollout was uneventful, noting the staff did a great job adequately preparing and attending training, making the transition effective and uneventful.

The Chair next asked Mr. Franzese to provide the Board with an update on the search for a permanent director. Mr. Franzese, along with representatives from the Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Insurance, was a member of the Preliminary Screening Committee.

Mr. Franzese said the Screening Committee met on Thursday, November 14 and reviewed several candidates that were previously phone screened, noting two candidates would be returning on Tuesday, November 19 for a preliminary screening interview. Mr. Franzese said Human Resources would be scheduling five additional potential candidates for interviews by the Screening Committee. Mr.

Franzese hoped to complete the preliminary interviews within a few weeks and present the Board with a final list of recommended candidates for them to interview. Discussion ensued on next steps.

AAG Kaplan asked if Human Resources reached out to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), and whether or not there were additional candidates gathered from that group. Sheila Mulcahy from HR said that since the last MRB meeting in November, the job had been posted with AAMVA although MassDOT received no resumes. Discussion ensued on the outreach process.

Chair Tesler moved to the next agenda item, a discussion and possible action on extending the tenure of the Interim Director of the MRB. He thanked Paul for stepping in during a time of change and challenge and for being flexible with his time.

Mr. Tesler asked the Board members for their opinions as to the length of the extension. The Board agreed to extend the tenure of the Interim Director for 90 days. Discussion ensued.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED:

To extend the tenure of Paul Franzese as Interim Director of the Merit Rating Board for an additional 90 days.

Mr. Tesler announced the formal business on the agenda was concluded and noted the next meeting of the MRB was scheduled for December 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. pending the work of the Screening Committee, and would make adjustments if needed. Mr. Tesler asked the Board members if there were any other items to be added as future agenda items for discussion.

AAG Kaplan said that he and Mr. Franzese met with the Federal Motor Safety Administration who govern the federal side of commercial licenses.

Mr. Kaplan said the Board should keep in mind that there are certain incidents that are not showing up in our process regarding drivers under commercial insurance who get into accidents- should points change or should licenses be on RMVs radar.

In addition, AAG Kaplan asked whether Mr. Franzese could dig into MRB's data to identify drivers who have violations that, coupled with other violations, may result in a suspension.

For the next meeting Chairman Tesler asked for a general report from the Interim Director on how things were progressing at the MRB including updates on the issues raised by AAG Kaplan.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: to adjourn at 2:50 p.m.

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

Minutes from the MRB Meeting, October 30, 2019