



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



Merit Rating Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 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 2:06 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, representing Attorney General Maura Healey.

Others present were Thomas Bowes and his attorney Leonard Kersten, Marie Breen and Owen Kane.

Acting Registrar Tesler gave an overview of the role of the MRB and of the Board going forward. He also discussed the need for a regular meeting schedule for the Board and new leadership.

Mr. Tesler updated the Board on the details of the interim report of the independent auditor Grant Thornton and the immense backlog at the Merit Rating Board where Thomas Bowes was director.

Assistant Attorney General Kaplan reiterated the Attorney General's concerns about recent events, noting the Board had not met in years despite his repeated requests for a meeting since 2016. Mr. Kaplan said the Attorney General's Office was not notified of the backlog and was never asked to vote on Mr. Bowes's appointment when he took over as director on July 3, 2016. Mr. Kaplan said there was a complete lack of leadership at the RMV and clearly, new leadership was necessary.

Mr. Tesler noted the most important item on the agenda at this meeting was the replacement of the director of the Merit Rating Board, Thomas Bowes. Mr. Tesler gave Mr. Bowes an opportunity to speak before the Board took any action. Mr. Bowes "accepted full responsibility for the role the MRB played" in the deadly New Hampshire crash.

Mr. Tesler said that based on everything learned over the past eight weeks, the MRB needed to head in a different direction that would require new leadership, and proposed that the Board terminate Thomas Bowes immediately and immediately seek new leadership.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED:

That, effective immediately, Thomas Bowes is hereby terminated as Director of the Merit Rating Board.

After the vote, Mr. Bowes and Attorney Kersten departed the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board concerning the skills, process, experience and notification of the appointment of the interim director.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED:

That the Merit Rating Board hereby delegates to the Acting Registrar of Motor Vehicles the authority to appoint an Interim Director of the Merit Rating Board; for a period of up to two (2) months. Such Interim Director to preferably possess demonstrated management skills, familiarity with driver licensing and insurance operations and the Merit Rating Board. The resume of the selected Interim Director to be provided to the Board in advance of the appointment.

The RMV will post a listing for the full-time job and the Board will help with the hiring process. Mr. Tesler said the Board plans to meet regularly moving forward but no schedule was discussed.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: to adjourn at 2:40 p.m.