

**ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD
4500 South 6th Street Road, Room 173, Springfield, IL 62703-6617**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JOINT FINANCE
& LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Springfield, IL – WebEx Video Conferencing due to COVID-19
December 18, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The December 18, 2020 meeting of the Joint Finance and Legislative and Executive Committee was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Elvia Williams. Roll was called by John Keigher, and a quorum of voting members was established.

Members in attendance:

Elvia Williams *via WebEx*

John Idleburg *via WebEx*

Tim Nugent *via WebEx*

Members absent:

Sean Smoot

Iris Martinez

Kwame Raoul

Staff in attendance:

John Keigher

Brent Fischer

Keith Calloway *via WebEx*

Pat Hahn

Denise Matthew *via WebEx*

Eric Pingolt *via WebEx*

Ellen Petty

Others in Attendance:

John Carroll designee for Kwame Raoul

Mitchell Davis

Bob Crouch

Brian Fengel

Chuck Doan

Brad Oyer

David Hayes

Deb Alms

Doug Coppotelli

Heather Hotz

Jean Swan

John Reynolds

Joe Schweih

Penny Abbott

Richard Fonck

II. COMMENTS FROM ILETSB CHAIRMAN

Chairman Mitchell Davis addressed the committee briefly regarding why the meeting was called.

III. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. FY21 and FY22 Revenues

Denise Matthew explained the difference between appropriations and actual receipts as they relate to what funds are available for our use. The annual budgeted amount is currently \$24.7M. During good years in the past, our receipts into the surcharge fund were running between \$20M-\$21M. More recently, our good years only saw receipts of \$17.5M. FY19 was last full year before the new fines & fees calculations went into effect. FY20 saw surcharge fund receipts of only \$12.8M. FY21 YTD receipts are only at \$4.2M. Projecting further out, we are looking at receipts of only \$8.5M for this fiscal year to cover our \$24.7M budget. This is only about half of what the fund brought in 2 years ago.

B. MTU Disbursements

Director Fischer reported that it takes \$1.6M to pay a full quarterly payment to the MTUs. We have only paid 3/4 of the first quarter to the MTUs so far this fiscal year. Fischer outlined the Board's options and requests we've made to try to help. The Board pays out funds as they come in, as much as we can each time. Last fiscal year, the Board was only able to pay three full quarters. Staff reached out to MTUs to determine their wishes on final payments for FY20 and their ability to spend the money before year end. Most opted not to receive the final payment as it would be difficult to spend the funds with no training being conducted due to COVID.

Williams asked MTUs to join in the conversation and ask any questions they may have.

Penny Abbott of MTU 9 asked when MTUs can get the additional money. Fischer responded that we've submitted a spending plan to the Lt. Governor's office for \$1M of the GRF funds to use it now, rather than at lapse. This \$1M would be divided up to send \$825K to the MTUs and \$175K to fund CIT training to help get us by until additional receipts come in.

Chief Davis assured the MTUs that the Board is expressing a sense of urgency to the administration. We are pressing them constantly for additional funding and pursuing alternate funding ideas.

The MTUs were asked to please explain the impact this is having on their operations.

Dave Hayes of MTU 14 stated that they have a \$117K deficit in spending for half of FY21 and have therefore suspended all training through the end of January. They have no other choice until additional funding can come in. Their deficit grows \$35K per month due to payroll and office expenses.

Penny Abbott at MTU 9 reported that they have \$100K in the bank right now and are offering only grant funded classes at this point. If they receive no additional money by March, she will have to lay off her one employee, and if no additional funds are paid by June, the office will have to close.

Davis asked the MTUs to please send ILETSB a blurb about how this funding issue is affecting their individual MTUs - so it can be shared with the Lt. Governor's staff to plead our case. Fischer asked that Pat Hahn be copied on those submissions.

Joe Schweihs at MTU 3 asked if the Surcharge Fund goes away, is there another source of funding? Fischer responded to say the Board and staff are looking at alternative funding sources - and have been doing so for over a year and the best thing the MTUs can do is to contact legislators and express the need to find a new funding source to fund Board operations and additional training mandates.

Fischer went on to explain that there is a sunset after 18 months of this new legislation which has detrimentally affected our receipts, and that the sunset has been extended another year, to expire on January 1, 2022. After that date, unless legislation is passed to change it, no more funds will be deposited into the surcharge fund. We need help with reaching out to legislators.

John Reynolds of MTU 4 asked what kind of plans or ideas does the Board have as far as additional funding.

Fischer responded that we are making recommendations and working with people in the legislative process, he doesn't want to talk openly about our recommendations and suggestions too soon, but when possible, he will share it publicly.

Williams noted that she learned that Kentucky uses insurance surcharges for their funding and commented that she is interested in pursuing that.

Brian Fengel of MTU 7 commented that Motor Vehicle Theft training is already being funded by that route and asked if we have any legislators who are championing our cause at this point?

Davis responded that some are working on it currently, but we are also working with the Black Caucus who is driving legislation currently with Police Reform and they are aware funding must be a part of those changes. They're asking us for suggestions on how to address that. It's a dire situation and they are aware of it. Additionally, cannabis money hasn't gone the way it was expected to. The Board is trying to be innovative and are looking for input and suggestions from everyone.

Williams noted that Deluca and Hastings are supporting this from the South Suburbs.

There were no additional comments from the MTUs.

C. Questions/Comments

Denise went over the MTU disbursements for last year. ILETSB payments were shorted \$908K for MTU budgets in FY20. Currently for FY21, ILETSB has paid 1/2 of 1st quarter payments plus the cost of the MTU audits. We still owe MTUs for the last half of the first quarter and the full second quarter. A total of \$6.2M is owed to the MTUs for the full FY21 funding, of which only about \$800,000 has already been paid.

Richard Fonck of MTU 16 asked about our other expenses besides MTUs. The surcharge fund covers not just MTUs, but all of the Board's operations/payroll, etc. The additional \$3M from GRF to be made available with the Governor's approval is earmarked especially for training, not for operational costs.

Deb Alms of MTU 2 asked if new legislative members in January will impede our process with this?

Director Fischer responded that Board staff is trying to work with to make progress in the lame duck session, if one were to take place in the first week of January. The new session starts January 13th, so we are working to get whatever we can get done before the switch takes place to avoid any problems which might arise from the switch.

Matthew gave an explanation of the \$3M for FY20 and FY21, advising that it has been appropriated, but must be approved by the Governor and can only be spent during lapse. We are trying to get \$1M of the \$3M for this year now, rather than waiting until lapse when it's too late to keep the MTU doors open.

Williams pointed out that we need to get funding arranged for FY22 that doesn't rely upon the surcharge fund.

Matthew added that in addition to funding being down, State employees are working from home due to COVID, so deposits are coming in slower and payments are going out slower due to slow downs at the comptroller's and treasurer's offices, which only exacerbates the issue with lack of funding.

Reynolds asked about budget cuts for our agency per a recent news release by the Governor. Fischer responded that the Board has not received any specific requests or information about any additional cuts at this time.

IV. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Idleburg, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

