

**Hazard Abatement Board
233rd Meeting
New York State Department of Labor
State Office Building Campus
Albany, New York 12240
March 20, 2023**

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Ann Marie Taliercio – Acting Chair
Frank Mirer
Grace Sembajwe

Staff Present:

Liz Martin – Secretary to the Board
Stacy Wood – Notetaker
Anne Spencer

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM.

Introductions: Acting Chair Taliercio began the meeting with introductions of all Board members and staff present.

Announcement/Statements: Acting Chair Taliercio made the following opening statement:

“Good morning and thank you for joining us today at the 233rd meeting of the NYS Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board [HAB]. This is also our first hybrid meeting, and this is our first meeting in over twenty years that we do not to have as Board Member, the former Deputy Commissioner Robert Gollnick sitting on it, as he has stepped away from these duties to fully enjoy his retirement. Member Gollnick was my mentor when I was appointed to this Board and now as Interim Chair, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Bob for all his years of dedication to the Hazard Abatement Board. His prior experience in the field of health and safety as well in his position as President of the NYS Fire Fighters Association is what has contributed to the success of this Board in funding training programs that has made NYS a safer place to work, so all of us as New Yorkers, whether we had a grant or not have a lot to “Thank” Bob for.

Next, on behalf of the Board I would like to thank Liz Martin for her continued leadership and all of the New York State staff for their valued work in reading, evaluating and commenting on this year’s applications as well as managing the ongoing grants throughout the year.

Next, I would like to personally thank our present Board Members, Frank Mirer and Grace Sembajwe, for their efforts in coming to this day when we are prepared to award the grants to continue the training that New York workers and employers have come to depend on.

We thank Governor Hochul for recognizing the benefits of the Hazard Abatement Board Grant program by continuing it and at the same time, we ask the Governor to consider restoring the full amount of \$6.2M, to next year’s budget so that all the important programs, run by New Yorkers to protect the health and safety and even lives of New Yorkers at workers can happen.

The Board had a difficult time again this year in allocating the available funds to train the most workers as possible because \$2.5M cannot possibly provide all the training that is needed. So, we continue to ask our audience to communicate to Governor Hochul and your State Representatives how valuable this funding is to NYS workers and the need for full funding to be restored. Thank you.

The process of awarding grant monies starts with receiving the applications by that year's deadline date. Then the State workers review, comment and score the grants submitted. Next, the HAB reviews the grants and initial recommendations, has discussions, and makes the final awards, based on the merit of the proposal and how the available monies can train the most workers. We will now vote on the minutes of the last meeting; review the Capital Abatement Projects for this year; and read the list of grants to be partially funded and not funded.

Program cuts may have been suggested by the Board but as the Board will later propose, the changes will be fully decided by the Contract Managers, in dialogue with the Grantees in deciding what cuts makes the most sense.

After today's awards meeting, NYSDOL Contract Managers will be reaching out to awardees shortly to begin the contracting process. Now back to business."

Approval of Minutes: The reading of the minutes from the June 23, 2022 meeting were waived. Board Member Mirer motioned to accept the minutes as written. Board Member Sembajwe seconded. Upon hearing no questions or changes to the minutes, the motion passed with all in favor.

Old Business: None

New Business: Acting Chair Taliercio asked Secretary Martin to report on the Capital Abatement Projects (CAP) seeking HAB funding for the 2023-2024 program year.

- The Village of Wellsville (Case No. 05-06-22) was determined eligible on July 28, 2022 for a full award amount of \$7,537.50; and
- The Town of Alexandria (Case No. 07-22-22) was determined eligible on August 10, 2022 for a full award amount of \$5,078.83.

Board Member Mirer moved to accept the Capital Abatement Project Awards as read. Board Member Sembajwe seconded. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Secretary Martin read the CAP Resolution.

Board Members reviewed the proposals in the following category: 2023-2024 "Ineligible" applicants, of which there were two:

- NYC District Council of Carpenters Apprenticeship Journeymen Re-Education Industry Fund, whose due diligence review uncovered unresolved issues and the applicant was unresponsive after multiple attempts to resolve; and

- Group Health Inc. (GHI), whose due diligence review uncovered that the application was submitted under an incorrect Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN).

Secretary Martin read the list of proposals from the prepared “Do Not Fund” list.

Board Member Mirer motioned to accept the “Do Not Fund” list for 2023-2024. Board Member Sembajwe seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

Secretary Martin then read the list of proposals from the prepared “Partially Funded” list.

Board Member Mirer moved to fund the proposals as presented in the “Partially Funded” list. Board Member Sembajwe seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

Secretary Martin read the Resolution to accept the awards as presented. Board Member Mirer motioned to accept awards as presented. Board Member Sembajwe seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

Resolution to Enable Contract Managers to Act on the Board’s Behalf: Board Member Mirer moved to enable Contract Managers to act on the Board’s behalf. Board Member Sembajwe seconded. The resolution passed with all in favor.

Final Comments: Acting Chair Taliercio made the following closing statement:

I would like to ask the Board if there were any further remarks you would like to make about this year’s award program.

- Board Member Mirer remarked that more Board members are needed. He then remarked that the scene in safety and health has shifted to a major extent and there is a need to direct projects more towards ventilation and other means of controlling airborne infectious disease. His final remark was about applicants requesting a more realistic dollar amount in their grant application based on the reduced funds that have been available in recent years.
- Board Member Sembajwe reiterated that more funding is needed for this program in the future.

Thank you, Frank and Grace, for your comments and thank you both for your hard work. Thank you all for your time. Thank you to the Board, thank you to the staff, and of course to the applicants.

Reading of the Certification: Secretary Martin read the 2023-2024 Board Meeting Certification.

Adjournment: Board Member Taliercio motioned to adjourn. Board Member Mirer seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.