

**Hazard Abatement Board
234th Meeting
New York State Department of Labor
State Office Building Campus
Albany, New York 12226
April 24, 2024**

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Ann Marie Taliercio – Acting Chair
Frank Mirer
Grace Sembajwe
Florence McCue – Proxy for Thomas Carey

Staff Present:

Beth Geleta – Secretary to the Board
Stacy Wood – Notetaker
Anne Spencer

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

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 afternoon, I am Ann Marie Taliercio, interim Hazard Abatement Board Chair and I would like to thank everyone for joining us from around the State for the 234th meeting of the NYS Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board [HAB].

I would like to take a moment to allow the HAB Board Members and NYSDOL staff to please introduce themselves.

Next, I'd like to personally thank the HAB Board Members, Frank Mirer, Grace Sembajwe, and Tom Carey for their service and dedication in keeping this valuable program going each year. Tom Carey was appointed last Fall but unfortunately could not be here with us today, although he was fully involved in the review process. He has delegated Florence McCue as his proxy for this meeting today.

Next, on behalf of the Board I would like to thank Beth Geleta for her continued leadership and all of the NYS 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.

Today is an especially exciting meeting because, thanks to Governor Kathy Hochul, who this year restored pre-COVID funding levels to this program, we have enough funding to fully satisfy the needs of this year's grant requests. Thank you again Governor Hochul for helping to ensure that NY Workers can safely leave each day!

The process of awarding grant monies starts with receiving the proposals by that year's deadline date. Once received, Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions staff, in conjunction with

staff from the Division of Safety and Health, review and score the eligible proposals submitted. Next the HAB Board reviews the proposals and the initial recommendations, has discussions, and determines 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 fully funded.

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

Approval of Minutes: The reading of the minutes from the March 20, 2023, 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 Geleta to report on the Capital Abatement Projects (CAP) seeking HAB funding for the 2024-2025 program year.

1. The City of Canandaigua Water Plant (Case No. 21-23) was determined eligible on October 4, 2023, for a full award amount of \$2,349.47;
2. The Village of Brownville DPW Garage (Case No. 24-23) was determined eligible on October 5, 2023, for a full award amount of \$10,047.72;
3. The Village of Wilson (Case No. 25-24) was determined eligible on March 25, 2024, for a full award amount of \$1,740; and
4. Belfast Central School District (Case No. 26-24) was determined eligible on March 25, 2024, for a full award amount of \$9,852.03.

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

Secretary Geleta read the CAP Resolution.

Board Members reviewed the proposals in the following category: 2024-2025 "Ineligible" applicants, of which there were three (3):

1. Charter Physical Training, Inc., whose Grants Gateway Document Vault status was not designated in one (1) of the four (4) acceptable categories at the time of application submission;
2. Niagara Frontier Automobile Dealers Association, Inc., whose Grants Gateway Document Vault status was not designated in one (1) of the four (4) acceptable categories at the time of application submission; and

3. North Atlantic States Carpenters Training Fund, whose Grants Gateway Document Vault status was not designated in one (1) of the four (4) acceptable categories at the time of application submission.

Secretary Geleta read the list of proposals from the prepared “Fully Funded” list.

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

Secretary Geleta 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 Taliercio moved to enable Contract Managers to act on the Board’s behalf. Board Member Mirer 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.”

1. Board Member Mirer remarked that he thinks the next Request for Proposals (RFP) should highlight the need for new areas of training and that this should be heavily weighted among the criteria for training and the acceptance of grants. He stated “We cannot judge the demand for this training because it has been so long since we have been able to fund even a fraction of what has been applied for. The grants this time are stronger on average than usual, but it is also because other vendors have stopped applying. Many of these training grants are being delivered by people from the trades, people who are arguing for stronger protections and that adds strength to their applications. The training is certainly worth doing and the current range of applications is not really a judgement of the interest in this program.”
2. Board Member Taliercio agreed with Board Member Mirer and thinks that many vendors got tired of applying when there was reduced funding, noting that we received about half of the applications we usually receive.
3. Board Member Sembajwe reiterated that we need to underline the importance of these programs and the gratitude the Board has that the funding has been restored for these applications. She stated “It is wonderful news, and we hope that we can continue to fund programs and that more meritorious applications will be submitted. This is such an important program for New York State and quite unique.”
4. Board Member Taliercio announced that Board Member Sembajwe will be leaving the Board as she has taken a different job and has moved out of New York State.

Acting Chair Taliercio stated, “Thank you, Frank and Grace, for your comments and thank you both and Tom 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 Geleta read the 2024-2025 Board Meeting Certification.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

DRAFT