



**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
MEETING**

February 20th, 2025

1. Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Maine Turnpike Authority was held at 9 a.m. on February 20th, 2025.

The following were present:

Michael Cianchette, Chair
Jane Lincoln, Vice Chair
Nina Fisher, Member
Thomas Zuke, Member
Bruce Van Note, Member Ex-Officio

2. Chairman Michael Cianchette called the meeting to order.
3. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the minutes of the board's January 23rd meeting.
4. John Sirois, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reported on financial matters. He reported that in February thus far growth for all classes of traffic had been down, most likely due to the number of storms. He said that the MTA's annual audit was ongoing and that he expected the results would be ready to present at the next board meeting. He said that preparations for the bond refinancing were going well and that he expected to bring an Issuance Resolution to the board for its consideration in March.
5. MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note joined the meeting at this point.
6. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve investments of money to the credit of Maine Turnpike Authority funds made during the month of January, 2025, as detailed on a report submitted to this meeting by Bangor Savings Bank, dated February 11th, 2025.
7. Interim Executive Director Peter Merfeld reported to the board on the recent fire at Auburn Maintenance. He said that staff was considering hiring a fire safety consultant to review MTA facilities. He said that staff had also reviewed potential purchases, including insulated, fireproof cabinets. He said that no cause of the fire had been identified as yet.

8. On motion of Michael Cianchette, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of various toll equipment components required to upgrade the MTA's Exit 47 and Exit 52 video enforcement system, from Transcore, in the total amount of \$1,031,749.00, as enumerated on Purchase Requisition 369, presented to this meeting.
9. Director of Maintenance John Cannell reported on winter maintenance activities. Mr. Cannell said that his written report only covered the period through the end of January, which did not include the large February storms. He said it had been a busy winter, with very cold weather, but there was nothing unusual about the number of hours or salt usage. He said that he was glad to see that salt use was consistent with previous years because, with the temperatures so low, salt use would normally increase. Mr. Cannell noted that he believed this was at least partially a result of more efficient application practices and the use of more brine.
10. Mr. Cannell presented a proposed purchase of plow blades. He said that normally staff made these purchases in the fall, but given the fact that snow plow blades came from abroad and were made of steel, he thought it might be prudent to make the purchases before increased tariffs were imposed.
11. On motion of Bruce VanNote, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchases of snow blades from Kueper, under an existing State of Maine contract, in the total amount of \$ 102,770.00, and from Jordan Equipment, in the amount of \$ 142,398.05, as delineated on quotations from those companies presented to the board.
12. On motion of Bruce Van Note, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of guard rail components from Main Line Fence, in the total amount of \$ 140,114.08, in accordance with prices received from Main Line Fence and presented to the board by Director of Maintenance John Cannell on a document entitled "Maine Turnpike Authority – Guardrail Components Pricing 2025." Chairman Michael Cianchette mentioned, for disclosure purposes, that he did have a distant relative that was associated with Main Line Fence Company.
13. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to approve the purchase of five half ton extended cap pickup trucks from O'Connor Motors, for \$ 244,425.00, a full sized van from Rowe-Ford for \$64,167.00, and to ratify the purchase of a front-end loader from Beauregard Equipment, in the amount of \$ 284,425.00, as a replacement for a loader destroyed in the recent Auburn Maintenance fire.
14. Interim Executive Director Peter Merfeld presented a spreadsheet detailing heavy equipment losses in the recent Auburn fire. Mr. Merfeld noted that staff would be recommending that replacements for the four heavy trucks lost be added to the truck replacement purchase currently planned for the coming fall.

15. Director of Information Services William Yates presented a proposal for the purchase and installation of network servers in the amount of \$ 380,884.68, from Winslow Technology Group. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Nina Fisher, and with the unanimous approval of all the members present, the purchase was approved.
16. Chairman Cianchette asked if there were any questions or objections related to items on the consent agenda. There were none, and the February Contract Consent Agenda was considered approved.
17. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented the current advertising schedule for construction contracts, noting that a replacement for the Auburn Maintenance facility had been added to the schedule with tentative advertising and award dates set for May, 2025.
18. Deputy Director of Engineering Kristi Van Ooyen presented bids received for two construction contracts. Chairman Michael Cianchette asked Ms. Ooyen why she thought only one bid had been received for the paving contract. She said that she did not know, but that she surmised that Pike's main competitor, Coastal Paving, was at full capacity and unable to bid the job.
19. On motion of Thomas Zuke, seconded by Jane Lincoln, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to award the following contracts:
 - Contract 2025.01 – Pavement Rehabilitation, Guardrail & Drainage Improvements and Bridge Joint Repairs, in the amount \$13,139,344.50, to Pike Industries.
 - Contract 2025.06 – Bridge Repairs, Androscoggin River, to CPM Constructors, in the amount of \$3,680,501.00.
20. Project Manager Jamie Mason reported on ongoing construction projects. Mr. Mason said that the contractor on the Saco Interchange Project was working on sign foundations and the administrative building and was putting together a more defined schedule for the upcoming Route 112 work, which would start this spring and cause unavoidable traffic impacts. He said that the contractor on the headquarters renovation project was working on the new bathroom in the lobby area and would proceed to expansion of the Customer Service Center next. He reported that the walls had been erected for the York Vehicle Garage, with the roof system installation next. He said that the Stevenstown Bridge repair project was almost complete and that a couple of bridges had been added to the scope of the Concrete Haunch Removal Project, still remaining within the program estimate for that project.
21. Erin Courtney, Director of Communications, updated the board on subjects relating to her department. She said that Construction Day would be held in the Hall of Flags next week, and the MTA would participate, along with the AGC and others. She reported that,

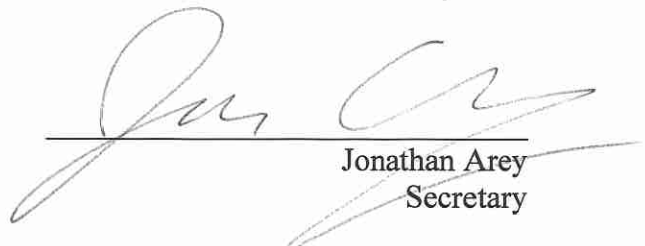
judging from the titles, there would be several bills this session touching on the MTA in some way, but those bills had not yet been printed. She said that the legislature was not in session this week and that, when they return, they would probably only be working once a week. She said that there had been 106 responses to the employee survey and that the annual Sea Dogs game seemed to remain popular, so staff was going to try to book that venue again this summer. She shared a letter from the Kittery town manager, Kendra Amaral, asking for a review of traffic noise from the high level bridge. She said that MTA staff had met with Ms. Amaral and would be working on possible approaches to doing some form of noise analysis.

22. On motion of Nina Fisher, seconded by Thomas Zuke, and with unanimous approval of the members present, it was voted to enter executive session for the purposes of:

- Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), of the MTA's legal rights and duties in relation to a proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the MaineDOT concerning a study of traffic congestion in the area west of Portland, Maine.
- Discussion, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(A)(1), of the employment of a new executive director for the MTA, where public discussion could be reasonably expected to violate the right to privacy of candidates for the position.

The executive session began at 9:55 A.M. and ended at 12 P.M.

Adjourned at 12:00 P.M.


Jonathan Arey
Secretary
3/28/25
Date