

City of Ecorse

Receivership Transition Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Ecorse City Hall

Council Chambers

Albert B. Buday Civic Center

3869 West Jefferson

Ecorse, Michigan 48229

**RTAB MEMBERS PRESENT:**

ROBERT BOVITZ

JOAN BROPHY

EDWARD KORYZNO

**ALSO PRESENT:**

WAYNE O'NEAL

City Administrator

ROBERT WIDIGAN

Michigan Department of Treasury

Reported by:

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**Called to order at 9:09 a.m.**

MR. KORYZNO: Good morning, it's 9:09, and I'll call the City of Ecorse Receiver Transition Advisory Board meeting to order. Mr. Widigan, roll call?

MR. WIDIGAN: Robert Bovitz.

MR. BOVITZ: Here.

MR. WIDIGAN: Ed Koryzno.

MR. KORYZNO: Here.

MR. WIDIGAN: Joan Brophy.

MS. BROPHY: Here.

MR. WIDIGAN: Quorum is present.

MR. KORYZNO: Thank you. Next item is approval of agenda. I'll entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

MR. BOVITZ: So moved.

MS. BROPHY: I'll support.

MR. KORYZNO: Moved by Bovitz, supported by Brophy.

Any discussion?

(No response)

MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the motion say aye. Aye.

MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

MS. BROPHY: Aye.

MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

(No response)

1 MR. KORYZNO: The agenda is approved as printed.  
2 And, a reminder to the public that if you intend to speak  
3 during the public comment portion of the meeting, it's  
4 necessary for you to sign the sheet at the podium,  
5 otherwise you will not be recognized. Next item is  
6 approval of RTAB minutes of the January 12th, 2016  
7 meeting.

8 MS. BROPHY: So moved.

9 MR. BOVITZ: Support.

10 MR. KORYZNO: Moved by Brophy, support by Bovitz  
11 to approve the RTAB minutes. Any discussion?

12 MR. BOVITZ: It's as corrected, right? I notice  
13 there are quite a few corrections.

14 MR. KORYZNO: Yes, as corrected, thank you, Mr.  
15 Bovitz.

16 Seeing none, all in favor of the motion say aye.  
17 Aye.

18 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

19 MS. BROPHY: Aye.

20 MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

21 (No response)

22 MR. KORYZNO: The minutes are approved as  
23 corrected.

24 Next item is old business. Item A, revised 2016  
25 RTAB meeting schedule. After the board adopted the

1 meeting schedule, the current meeting schedule, it was  
2 discovered that the state has a holiday on November 7th;  
3 therefore the normal meeting for the RTAB Ecorse will have  
4 to be changed to Monday, November 8th. And I'll entertain  
5 a motion to approve the revised schedule.

6 MR. BOVITZ: Yeah, the meeting was set for  
7 Tuesday November 8th, and I move that we change the date  
8 to November 7th, which is a Monday.

9 MS. BROPHY: Support.

10 MR. KORYZNO: It's been moved by Bovitz,  
11 supported by Brophy, to approve the amended meeting  
12 schedule for the 2016 RTAB meeting year.

13 Any further discussion?

14 (No response)

15 MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the  
16 motion, say aye. Aye.

17 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

18 MS. BROPHY: Aye.

19 MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

20 (No response)

21 MR. KORYZNO: The meeting schedule change is  
22 approved.

23 Item three, new business. A, approval of  
24 resolutions and ordinances for city council meetings.  
25 One, number one, resolutions from the regular city council

1 meeting of December 22nd, 2015.

2 MR. BOVITZ: Move that we adopt the resolutions  
3 from the December 22, (sic) 2015 regular city council  
4 meeting with the exception of Resolution 346.15, which is  
5 the US Steel settlement fund, withdrawal of funds.

6 MS. BROPHY: Support.

7 MR. KORYZNO: Moved by Bovitz, support by  
8 Brophy, to approve the resolutions for the December 22nd,  
9 2015 city council meeting, with the exception of  
10 Resolution 346.15.

11 Any further discussion?

12 (No response)

13 MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the  
14 motion say aye. Aye.

15 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

16 MS. BROPHY: Aye.

17 MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

18 (No response)

19 MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved, Item A,  
20 Resolution 346.15, the US Steel settlement fund,  
21 withdrawal of funds. City council approved this  
22 resolution at the December 22nd meeting, but subsequently  
23 at the January 19th, 2016 meeting, it was rescinded.  
24 Therefore, based on council's action, I recommend that we  
25 deny this resolution, and then approve the rescission when

1 the board addresses the January 19th, 2016 city council  
2 minutes, at our next board meeting.

3 MS. BROPHY: I'll move to deny resolution number  
4 346.15.

5 MR. BOVITZ: Support.

6 MR. KORYZNO: Moved by Brophy, support by  
7 Bovitz, to deny Resolution 346.15.

8 Any further discussion?

9 (No response)

10 MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the  
11 motion say aye. Aye.

12 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

13 MS. BROPHY: Aye.

14 MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

15 (No response)

16 MR. KORYZNO: The motion to deny is approved.

17 Item two, resolutions from regular city council  
18 meeting of January 5th, 2016.

19 MR. BOVITZ: Move that we adopt the resolutions  
20 from the city council meeting of January 5th of 2016.

21 MS. BROPHY: Support.

22 MR. KORYZNO: Moved by Bovitz, support by  
23 Brophy, to approve the meeting minutes of January 5th,  
24 2016.

25 Any further discussion?

1 (No response)

2 MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the  
3 motion say aye. Aye.

4 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

5 MS. BROPHY: Aye.

6 MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

7 (No response)

8 MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved.

9 Item three, claims and accounts from regular  
10 city council meeting draft minutes of January 19th, 2016.

11 MS. BROPHY: I will move to approve the claims  
12 and accounts from the regular city council meeting draft  
13 minutes of January 19th, 2016.

14 MR. BOVITZ: Support.

15 MR. KORYZNO: Moved by Brophy, supported by  
16 Bovitz.

17 Any discussion?

18 (No response)

19 MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the  
20 motion say aye. Aye.

21 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

22 MS. BROPHY: Aye.

23 MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

24 (No response)

25 MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved.

1           Next agenda item is city administrator items.  
2           Number one is city council minutes; those have been  
3           addressed in new business. Item two, budget to actual  
4           report for December. Entertain a motion to approve the  
5           December budget to actual report.

6           MR. BOVITZ: Move that we adopt the budget to  
7           actual report for December, 2015.

8           MS. BROPHY: Support.

9           MR. KORYZNO: Moved by Bovitz, support by  
10          Brophy. Any discussion?

11          MR. BOVITZ: Just a compliment to Mr. Sidowski.  
12          It's very comprehensive. I appreciate, being a CPA,  
13          understanding the numbers. And just one question about  
14          the revenue sharing. Is there any indication from the  
15          state whether that's coming or not? I notice the year to  
16          date was zero, but then there was also a state grant that  
17          was a different line item.

18          Any clarification on that, Mr. O'Neal?

19          MR. SIDOWSKI: (From the audience) Revenue  
20          sharing coming as it's paid on arrear (sic) so, we've  
21          received the money it's just -- it's booked it is an  
22          accrual for year end June 30th. But we've started to  
23          receive those monies for the current fiscal year.

24          MR. BOVITZ: And the state grant, that was just  
25          a, it wasn't in the original budget? Was that something

1 new that was --

2 MR. SIDOWSKI: Correct, that's a street light  
3 grant, the \$350,000. And we also received other grants,  
4 small grants for \$15,000.

5 MR. BOVITZ: Thank you.

6 MR. KORYZNO: Any further discussion?

7 (No response)

8 MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the  
9 motion say aye. Aye.

10 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

11 MS. BROPHY: Aye.

12 MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

13 (No response)

14 MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved.

15 Item three, approval of final payment on 2013  
16 street improvement. That was addressed in new business.

17 Item four, approval of US Steel settlement fund,  
18 withdrawal of funds, also addressed in new business.

19 Item five, approval of termination of employee.

20 Mr. O'Neal, were all the proper procedures  
21 followed for this employee's termination?

22 MR. O'NEAL: Yes sir, it's a part time employee  
23 that's worked for us for a number of years, and this  
24 individual has been involved in several accidents with  
25 vehicles. And that was the last straw.

1 MR. KORYZNO: Any questions for Mr. O'Neal on  
2 this particular item? If not, I'll entertain a motion.

3 MS. BROPHY: I'll move to approve the employee  
4 termination.

5 MR. BOVITZ: Support.

6 MR. KORYZNO: Moved by Brophy, supported by  
7 Bovitz. Any further discussion?

8 (No response)

9 MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the  
10 motion say aye. Aye.

11 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

12 MS. BROPHY: Aye.

13 MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

14 (No response)

15 MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved. Next item  
16 is the 2014-15 annual audit, it is an informational item  
17 only. Item seven is checks released and is also an  
18 informational item only. Next agenda item is city  
19 administrator report. Mr. O'Neal?

20 MR. O'NEAL: Thank you Mr. Chairman, members of  
21 the board.

22 A couple of things. We had a meeting, Mr.  
23 Koryzno, with yourself and the new incoming, interim  
24 deputy treasurer, and the deputy treasurer, and there was  
25 a comment made by Mr. Workman at that meeting relative to

1 relaxing some of the guidelines that were put in by the  
2 TAB board, relative to hiring and firing for the City of  
3 Ecorse. Is there any update on that?

4 MR. KORYZNO: The department, in a global sense,  
5 is working on a plan for all communities that are in the  
6 RTAB status, to examine a plan for relaxing, so to speak,  
7 the orders. Some of the orders, depending upon the  
8 particular city, reducing or relaxing those orders and  
9 restoring some of the powers back to the city. So --

10 MR. O'NEAL: Well, we're specifically talking  
11 about the hiring and firing of personnel. Or are we  
12 talking about in general?

13 MR. KORYZNO: We're talking about, it depends  
14 upon the individual community. And so --

15 MR. O'NEAL: And what's in place for that  
16 community.

17 MR. KORYZNO: Right.

18 MR. O'NEAL: Relative to what those orders might  
19 be.

20 MR. KORYZNO: Exactly.

21 MR. O'NEAL: Okay, that's fine. The next  
22 question would be, then, there was thoughts that we might  
23 be coming out of receivership. Now, the governor is the  
24 one that has to approve that we're coming out of  
25 receivership by executive order, is that right?

1 MR. KORYZNO: That's correct. To be removed  
2 from receivership is based upon the governor's decision.

3 MR. O'NEAL: And, those items are based on the  
4 reason he or she might do that, would be because we have  
5 fulfilled the obligations relative to the bonds that we  
6 owe, and the good financial footings, what have you.

7 But as long as those bonds were in place, I  
8 believe that the bonds require that we have a city  
9 administrator on board, that the other items, the orders  
10 from the EFM that left in place, talk about some of the  
11 things that we just talked about.

12 But those wouldn't -- we wouldn't come out of  
13 RTAB oversight until such time as the governor deemed us  
14 to be out of receivership, and that would be a year and a  
15 day after that, is that correct?

16 MR. KORYZNO: Just so I understand, a year and a  
17 day after?

18 MR. O'NEAL: The governor decrees that there's  
19 no longer a financial emergency.

20 MR. KORYZNO: Technically, yes. If the governor  
21 stated that, or determined that the city was no longer in  
22 receivership, then Public Act 436 requires the city to  
23 still adhere to the final EM order, to the EM orders for a  
24 one year period, that's correct, yes.

25 MR. O'NEAL: A one year period after that. So,

1       there, based on the conversations that we had, there is no  
2       movement afoot, that you know of, that -- because of our  
3       status with our budgets and our bonding and things like  
4       that, for us, in the near future, coming out of  
5       receivership?

6               MR. KORYZNO: Based upon Mr. Workman's comments,  
7       Deputy Treasurer Workman, it was determined, it was his  
8       desire; he's since left and now Mr. Steckleburg is the  
9       deputy treasurer for local government. To examine each  
10      community that's under RTAB, determine if they can, if the  
11      restrictions, the EM orders can be relaxed, moving the  
12      community back in transition towards local control. But  
13      still have the RTAB remain in place for some period of  
14      time.

15             MR. O'NEAL: So, and that's fine; I mean, I'm  
16      not trying to hold your feet to the fire, but.

17             MR. KORYZNO: No, I understand.

18             MR. O'NEAL: There's been some discussion here  
19      in Ecorse, relative to where we might be headed, based on  
20      some of the comments that were made. And I just want to  
21      make sure for clarification, that we know. I think it's  
22      wonderful we could come out of receivership, because  
23      that's my job with the city council, to get us out of  
24      receivership, and to self-governance. And that's what  
25      we're attempting to do.

1           But for the -- for at least the next several  
2 years, we're not even looking close to be coming out of  
3 receivership, because of the financial difficulties we're  
4 still in.

5           Is that fair to say?

6           MR. KORYZNO: I would say that's dependent upon  
7 the governor's decision. I would say for the near term,  
8 there'll be a -- it's the desire of Treasury to move the  
9 community back in some fashion. Not totally, but  
10 partially back towards local control.

11          MR. O'NEAL: So the RTAB isn't going away?

12          MR. KORYZNO: Correct.

13          MR. O'NEAL: Okay, I mean, I'm just -- I'm being  
14 asked the questions. So.

15          MR. KORYZNO: And I understand it. I can speak  
16 as the chair only, and not so much as the --

17          MR. O'NEAL: Governor's rep.

18          MR. KORYZNO: Yes.

19          MR. O'NEAL: So I guess my phone call would be  
20 more to the deputy treasurer, or --

21          MR. KORYZNO: Mr. Steckleburg would be the  
22 person to speak to.

23          MR. O'NEAL: Okay. Then I will do that, as  
24 well.

25          MR. KORYZNO: Deputy Treasurer Steckleburg.

1 MR. O'NEAL: Okay. And one of the things that  
2 he specifically talked about, Mr. Workman talked about the  
3 hiring and the firing. That was one of the things he  
4 specifically talked about for Ecorse. And so, you're  
5 going to be doing your assessment and that little form  
6 that you do, and that will probably part and parcel of  
7 that, I would assume. Just a dumb old country boy, but  
8 just trying to figure that out.

9 All right. Now, I've -- we've gone through the  
10 interview process. For the DPW superintendent. Quite  
11 frankly, the candidate that I thought would be best suited  
12 for the position, withdrew. I've reposted the position.  
13 Okay. I know what your rules state. Is there -- do I  
14 have the authority to appoint somebody as interim DPW  
15 superintendent? Because it's going to take me several  
16 months to do this process over again.

17 I don't want to do anything if I'm going to get  
18 the wrath of the RTAB. But I'd be using the same funds;  
19 it would not a contract. It'd be the same funds, and I  
20 would have somebody on an interim basis. No increase in  
21 the budget.

22 MR. KORYZNO: I don't believe I would have any  
23 objection to that.

24 MR. O'NEAL: I've got to have somebody, the boss  
25 down there.

1 MR. KORYZNO: I understand.

2 MR. O'NEAL: I got to have somebody. Okay,  
3 thank you very much. I've talked with Mr. Van de Grift  
4 about some of the emails that came to the state, relative  
5 to some of the things, and if you don't have any  
6 questions, I'll just skip right over that.

7 MR. KORYZNO: I have no questions.

8 MR. O'NEAL: I'll skip right over that. Got  
9 that. Okay.

10 Ed, you've known me a long time. I'm going to  
11 be blunt, because I don't know any other way to do that.  
12 You folks can't talk amongst yourselves because that's a  
13 quorum.

14 MR. KORYZNO: Correct.

15 MR. O'NEAL: So that's a violation of the open  
16 meetings act. But, as the city's representative to the  
17 RTAB, I should have the ability to talk to you  
18 individually. So what I respectfully request, is I get  
19 Mr. Bovitz and Mr. -- and Ms. Brophy's personal  
20 information. I had Joyce's phone number; I'd like to be  
21 able to have their cell phones and talk to them. I can  
22 talk to them but you can't.

23 MR. KORYZNO: Correct.

24 MR. O'NEAL: But I can't.

25 MR. KORYZNO: Outside this meeting.

1           MR. O'NEAL: Except for the meeting. But I can,  
2 and I would like to have that ability, to have -- I would  
3 like to have that ability, to be able to discuss with  
4 them. It's a perspective; I think it's important that --  
5 in that context. That -- is there going to be lobbying  
6 taking place? What do you call lobbying?

7           But, one thing I will never knowingly do is lie  
8 to somebody. I can't remember what I had for lunch. So  
9 lying is not going to get it with me. So that doesn't  
10 happen. But I think it's important, some of the problems  
11 that we may have here, will help especially Ms. Brophy,  
12 come up to speed on some of the things that we're facing  
13 here in Ecorse.

14           And I have a number of issues I'd like to  
15 discuss. Number of issues I'd like to discuss. One of  
16 which, emergency order number 94 speaks to the city  
17 administrator's duties. And while I am cognizant of what  
18 is in those manager's orders, I am all in with the city  
19 council. We've got a great city council right now, and  
20 we've got a wonderful mayor. He wants to do what's right.

21           But we still have these orders out there, and  
22 the orders say the appointments are mine, but the  
23 contracts are approved by the city council. And it says  
24 I'm supposed to confer with my -- with the council, and I  
25 am doing that, I am conferring.

1           If I make an appointment, or want to make an  
2 appointment, and the council doesn't approve the contract,  
3 then it becomes their appointment. So I'm between a rock  
4 and a hard place. Now, were not always going to agree,  
5 and I believe I have a very good working relationship with  
6 the vast majority of them.

7           Mr. Elam's here; I don't know if Ms. Banks is  
8 here, and there's two of my biggest supporters sitting  
9 right there. And we don't always agree, and that's fine.  
10 That's fine. But, we need -- that's an issue.

11           As you are aware, I tried to have -- appoint Ms.  
12 Booms to be our city attorney, and that was rejected by  
13 the council, and that's their prerogative. And they asked  
14 me to go out to bid for that position. And I will do  
15 that. I will do that. While I don't necessarily agree,  
16 I'm going to move forward with that process.

17           I have had contacts with Mr. Widigan relative to  
18 the problems I've got with this whole situation. As you  
19 see, I don't have a city attorney here. Now, I did not  
20 terminate Mr. Wycoff. I'm smart enough not to do that.  
21 But by the same token, we have an opportunity to save  
22 substantial amounts of money in that process. And I'd  
23 like you to move forward with that to a degree.

24           But, how do I do that without getting the ire of  
25 the members of the council that may not want that

1 appointment, and how would I might even do that on a  
2 temporary basis? So I'm in a predicament right now.

3 MR. KORYZNO: So is Mr. Wycoff's firm still the  
4 city attorney?

5 MR. O'NEAL: I have not terminated that.

6 MR. KORYZNO: All right, so you're not without a  
7 city attorney?

8 MR. O'NEAL: I'm not without a city attorney,  
9 but what I have done, is I've notified Mr. Wycoff that  
10 this firm is not to do anything without preapproval.  
11 Because there was a lot of items that are in the -- in the  
12 bill, that quite frankly, Tim Sidowski and I don't need  
13 it. Or Mr. Moore don't need it. Or Terry Capra doesn't  
14 need it.

15 We have a real good staff on board, and we need  
16 an attorney, but believe me, but with this situation we  
17 just had, I called Mr. Wycoff, and I talked with him about  
18 that situation, because you know, I'm not going to try to  
19 be an attorney. But I don't want an attorney to be the  
20 finance director either, if you know what I mean.

21 MR. KORYZNO: Mm-hm.

22 MR. O'NEAL: So, that being said, you know, I'd  
23 like to move forward with certain things but, I'm in this  
24 gray area. Now, I suppose I could hire a city attorney  
25 without a contract, but I've got to get approval from the

1 TAB board to hire somebody. If it's just an employee, I  
2 don't need council's approval, but if I have a contract, I  
3 need council's approval.

4 Now I know how to circumvent things, but I don't  
5 want to circumvent things and draw the ire of my council.  
6 Because I'm trying to work with them, and I think I've got  
7 a good working relationship. But we get to these  
8 crossroads every now and again.

9 MR. KORYZNO: But in the case of the city  
10 attorney, it's you recommend and they confirm.

11 MR. O'NEAL: It says in the order that I shall  
12 confer with the council. Just to confer.

13 MR. KORYZNO: But based upon the order, because  
14 of the dollar amount in a contractual arrangement, it goes  
15 to city council.

16 MR. O'NEAL: It's over \$10,000. Right. Okay,  
17 but you see where I'm at with this?

18 MR. KORYZNO: Mm-hm.

19 MR. O'NEAL: So, I mean, I can abrogate my  
20 authority and just say to the city council, because there  
21 are members of the council that feel that the city  
22 attorney -- because in the charter, and I don't disagree  
23 with one of the members of the council sitting here today,  
24 but the city charter specifically says the appointments  
25 are the city council's. Of the city attorney, and the

1 controller and what have you.

2 But Emergency Order 94 says that has been set  
3 aside, and that is the province of the city administrator.  
4 So, while I've got a good working relationship with my  
5 mayor and my council, I have that situation sitting there.  
6 And sometimes, and for you that have known me for a while,  
7 I have a pretty strong personality.

8 But I also know not to push too hard, to  
9 alienate the members of my council. So if we're going to  
10 do these orders, and follow these orders, there's got to  
11 be some kind of a process that allows -- I know that Mr.  
12 Overlander did come directly to the TAB board on one  
13 particular appointment in the past. And bypassed the city  
14 council, and the TAB approved it. I don't want to get  
15 into that. Because I want them on -- I want them all  
16 together on that.

17 So, I guess, I'm not, I guess I don't know what  
18 I'm saying. These are the types of things I'd like to be  
19 able to talk to the TAB members, on an individual basis.  
20 It -- basically, so they see the dynamics there.

21 Because I don't want to do anything that's going  
22 to diminish the relationship that I have with my council.  
23 Also, I've got the members of my staff that are looking to  
24 me for leadership. And they understand that my authority  
25 relative to the council, what have you. So I'm in this

1 area where I've got to make sure that I maintain  
2 leadership and not give the appearance that I'm knuckling  
3 under to a city council, because they know where I'm  
4 going.

5 And typically, my decisions are not made in a  
6 microcosm. My decisions are made by and with my key  
7 department heads. As you well know, if you have a  
8 department head, they'll take ownership. You got nothing.  
9 So that's what I'm trying to do, is get a leadership by  
10 best practices with that.

11 So, I throw that out there. I will talk to you  
12 individually. I'd love to have a conversation with you  
13 all. I'd love to buy you lunch and talk about some of  
14 this stuff. We've got a lot of good things that are  
15 happening here, we have a lot of things that I'm still  
16 moving forward on relative, that I will have the  
17 authorities in on.

18 It's an ongoing process, but I will tell you  
19 that we are moving in the right direction, we've got a  
20 good strong council, we are moving in the right direction.  
21 To me, when I talked about the city attorney, that's a  
22 bump in the road. That's a bump in the road.

23 We'll get through that, we're going to get  
24 through that, okay, but, I don't -- I'm not going to stand  
25 here and tell you that it's all peaches and cream. But

1 from when I got here two years ago, we're a long way, and  
2 I thank the mayor and the council for where we're at with  
3 that. So, that's it.

4 MR. KORYZNO: Any questions for Mr. O'Neal?

5 (No response)

6 MR. KORYZNO: All right, thank you.

7 MR. O'NEAL: Thank you.

8 MR. KORYZNO: Next item is public comment. Mr.  
9 Widigan will call your name. Per the board rules, you'll  
10 have two minutes to speak, and when he does call your  
11 name, please approach the podium.

12 MR. WIDIGAN: Councilman Elam.

13 MR. ELAM: Good morning.

14 MR. KORYZNO: Good morning.

15 MR. ELAM: The city administrator already  
16 touched on what I was going to talk about. What I find  
17 here is that it appears that we need to revisit the work  
18 order 94, and probably 86, 82, whatever. When I read over  
19 these work orders, that were left by the financial  
20 manager, they said that we're supposed to stay within the  
21 charter as much as possible.

22 What I find is that we stayed within the charter  
23 on some cases but not on all. Now, when we're talking  
24 about a city attorney, for instance, according to the  
25 charter, that's an appointment with three other positions,

1 if I'm not mistaken. Controller, engineer and auditor.  
2 That's appointed with the incoming administration.

3 So with that being the case, we are not  
4 following the charter. These orders are superseding what  
5 the charter states. That's not the only case, but that's  
6 just one of them. Now the other situation that he, the  
7 city administrator, mentioned. And we do work together,  
8 in our cases. Most cases. But we don't agree on  
9 everything, okay. And another -- in the -- is the  
10 appointment of the DPW person, okay? Superintendent.  
11 Now, is that until that job comes down from a bid or is  
12 this supposed to be a permanent situation? Okay.

13 MR. KORYZNO: Okay, thank you, Councilmember  
14 Elam.

15 MR. O'NEAL: Thank you Mr. Elam, the chairman  
16 has allowed me to break his own rules relative to the  
17 interim. Interim, in its term, is just like when I was  
18 interim city administrator. I am here until a permanent  
19 appointment is made.

20 That permanent appointment has to go through the  
21 same process. There's a contract, and there's approval by  
22 the city council, and then the RTAB, for the permanent.  
23 Interim is what it means, it's a temporary appointment.  
24 But it has all the powers and authority as a regular  
25 person would have in that position but it's only part --

1 it's only temporary.

2 So you're correct, it will -- once we come to an  
3 agreement with somebody, we go through the interview  
4 process, that's when it comes to the city council for the  
5 contract, and then the TAB board. So you will have a --  
6 be able to vote on that. So the temporary, interim means  
7 just temporary.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. KORYZNO: You're welcome.

10 MR. WIDIGAN: That's it for public comment.

11 MR. KORYZNO: All right, then. That's all for  
12 public comment; next item is board comment. Any comments  
13 from the board members?

14 MR. BOVITZ: I reviewed the audit by Raymond,  
15 and it was a clean audit, which is good, and is showing a  
16 surplus two years in a row, and the only thing of note is  
17 a change in accounting principle, where they're required  
18 to reflect unfunded liability for future years on the  
19 pension, and it's a bit of a shock to see a \$25 million  
20 liability. But this puts it in perspective that, you  
21 know, the actuarials determination, you can't tell how  
22 long people are going to live, and it's just a number.

23 So if anybody sees, you know, the financials as  
24 restated, it looks like the City of Ecorse is in a  
25 deficit, but that's really just to accrue for the unknown,

1 which is we don't know.

2 But the good news is that two things. It was a  
3 clean audit, unqualified opinion two years in a row, and  
4 it's showing a surplus, so that's good.

5 MR. KORYZNO: Thank you.

6 Ms. Brophy, any comment?

7 MS. BROPHY: I'm fine.

8 MR. KORYZNO: I have no comment, so I'll  
9 entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

10 MR. BOVITZ: So moved.

11 MS. BROPHY: Support.

12 MR. KORYZNO: Moved by Bovitz, support by Brophy  
13 to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Aye.

14 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

15 MS. BROPHY: Aye.

16 MR. KORYZNO: Opposed, same sign.

17 (No response)

18 MR. KORYZNO: Meeting is adjourned at 9:37 a.m.,  
19 thank you for attending.

20 (Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.)

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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF WASHTENAW ) .ss

I certify that this transcript is a complete, true, and correct transcript to the best of my ability of the RTAB meeting held on February 9th, 2016, City of Ecorse. I also certify that I am not a relative or employee of the parties involved and have no financial interest in this case.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: February 16, 2016

*s/ Amy Shankleton-Novess*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Shankleton-Novess (CER 0838)  
Certified Electronic Reporter