Minutes

Texas Bond Review Board

Planning Session

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Capitol Extension, Room E2.028

And Videoconference Meeting

1100 Congress Ave.

Austin, TX 78701

The Texas Bond Review Board (BRB) convened in a planning session at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 9, 2024, in Room E2.028 of the Capitol Extension and via videoconference as authorized under Texas Government Code section 551.127. Present were Austin Holder, Chair and Alternate for Governor Greg Abbott; Joaquin Guadarrama, Alternate for Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick; Melissa Popkoff, Alternate for Comptroller Glenn Hegar; and Andrew Blifford, Alternate for Speaker Dade Phelan. Also, in attendance were Leslie Brock, Melissa Juarez, and Kimberly Fuchs with the Office of the Attorney General, Bond Finance Office staff members, and others.

1. **Call to Order**

Rob Latsha, Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present. He announced that this meeting will be held by videoconference call pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.127. This meeting may include participation from one or more Bond Review Board members by remote videoconference. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Bond Review Board members participating by videoconference shall be considered as being present for all purposes in the meeting. No votes would be taken.

1. **Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Request for Annual Waiver of the Section 2306.142(l) Requirements pursuant to Texas Government Code 2306.142(m) for all single family mortgage revenue bonds issued by the Department in calendar year 2024**

Representative present was Scott Fletcher, Director of Bond Finance, TDHCA.

At its meeting on October 26, 2023, the TDHCA Board approved this request. TDHCA single family bonds are special, limited obligations of TDHCA, payable solely out of the revenues, receipts, and security pledged under the two single-family indentures. The bonds do not constitute a general obligation of the state of Texas.

Scott Fletcher addressed the Board.

1. **Title 34 Texas Administrative Code, Part 9, Chapter 181 Bond Review Board Rules, Proposed New Rule §181.11**

The BRB is proposing a new administrative code rule based on the passage of House Bill 1038 by the 88th Legislature in 2023.

This new rule aims to grant the Board the authority to gather relevant information from state agencies or political subdivisions to enable the Board to prepare a biennial report on state lending and credit support programs due by December 31st of each even-numbered year.

Staff received comments from one state agency during the comment period, which ended on September 17, 2023. The Texas Water Development Board provided written comments dated September 15, 2023. BRB staff declines to make any changes to the proposed new rule based on these comments. A draft adoption preamble was provided to the Board for review.

The BRB held a public meeting to consider comments on the proposed new rule on Thursday, September 21, 2023, and Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Capitol Extension Room E2.028. No comments were received.

1. **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

1. **Date for Next Board Meeting**

A Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10am in Room E2.028 of the Capitol Extension.

1. **Items for Future Agendas**

Each Board member received an updated list of future agenda items.

1. **Report from the Executive Director**
* So far for fiscal year 2024, the BRB has received approximately 640 local debt issuances for processing. This is a similar number of issuances received compared to this time last year.
* Staff began issuing reservations for the calendar year 2024 Private Activity Bond Program. Total volume cap available for reservations is approximately $3.81 billion. This is a 6% increase from the 2023 program year amount. During the PAB lottery, BRB staff received over 130 applications for the 2024 program year. To date, there are over $5.6 billion in requests.
* Staff is finishing out 2023 carryforward designations, $409 million will be designated to complete the year; almost ten applications will be fully satiated.
* The Fiscal Year 2023 Local Debt Annual Report was posted to the BRB website on Friday, January 5, 2024.
* BRB staff is beginning to work on the state’s Debt Affordability Study. A draft of the report will be sent to the Board by Tuesday, February 6, 2024. The final version of the report will be posted to the agency’s website by Thursday, February 15, 2024.
* We would like to welcome our newest employee, Jack Price. He is our new staff accountant.
1. **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the planning session was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.