

**SC Campaign Finance Board Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020 - 10:00 AM
Via Zoom**

Participants: Lisa Scott-Chair, Honorable John Toomey, Adrian Fassett, Gina Popovich

1. Call to Order: 10:03 AM

2. Public Comments: None

3. Review/approve June 23rd, 2020 meeting minutes:
Motion by **Honorable John Toomey**; seconded by **Adrian Fassett**.

4. Discussion:

Lisa Scott - So welcome, Committee. So, we're calling it to order. At this point haven't heard of any public comments on this. So back in June, I looked up all the minutes, the last set of minutes we hadn't approved was June 23rd,

Obviously, it's verbatim, so I didn't find any issues with it and, of course, we have to update everything now since we've had that almost six-month gap. So, do either of you have any comments about that or shall we just move to accept?

Honorable John Toomey - I move to accept the minutes of the June 23rd meeting.

Adriane Fassett - I second.

Lisa Scott - All right, so we'll approve those. I had sent you both and Gina I attached it to the agenda this morning, there are two spreadsheets. I'm not clear on whether things like that need to be posted ahead of time too. Jack, do you know, when there are materials that are attached?

Honorable John Toomey - Posted for the meeting?

Lisa Scott - Yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - No, I would think not.

Lisa Scott - Okay.

Honorable John Toomey - You don't have to put up everything you're doing on it.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, okay.

Honorable John Toomey - But just know that we're having a meeting. I did get it, I read one of them, Lisa, and one of them is so small.

Lisa Scott - Yes, yes.

Honorable John Toomey - I tried it with a magnifying glass and I couldn't do it.

Lisa Scott - Well, they were Excel, which means you can, you know, just do that expand thing on your touchpad and you can make the whole thing bigger but then you can't see across. So, what I did the other day was I collapsed a lot of the columns because most of it was extraneous to what we care about. What mattered was the column 2/3rds of the way across, which was detail about what these items were on the financial transactions and basically it was our reimbursements.

Honorable John Toomey - Yeah.

Lisa Scott - So there were 12 for each of us, I think, and if you could flip back to the budget spreadsheet, which is the tiny one, you'll see that in one column, it's \$7,800 in reimbursements. The only other expense actually was \$199 for the ad in City & State Magazine.

Honorable John Toomey - Yep.

Lisa Scott - That was in there. What was the other thing? Oh, and I asked Massiel about that \$3000 debit and credit, which made no sense to me at all. On that detailed report and it's about halfway down and it turns out it's...because she's in the Budget department but another department actually does all the posting so it's not even her report. She had to get it from me. But basically, it was...I'm sorry, Jack, go ahead.

Honorable John Toomey - The balance, unless I'm wrong, should be one million dollars minus 7999. Correct?

Lisa Scott - Correct, correct. Yep. But there is no column that actually does that and that's what I kept asking about, that's why it took so long. I was envisioning a really simple ins and outs with dates with, you know, a net at the bottom and there is no such thing.

So, the other report, though, is the Budget Report and that finally made sense to me because they had to...remember Steve had to plug in a budget for the executive director because he had to get it approved and then the only other two items and

those were after the fact fixed on the budget were the 199.00 for the ad and for our compensation for the attending...

Honorable John Toomey - Right, that's it, yeah.

Lisa Scott - So, that's pretty straightforward. What Massiel did say was that when this was all originally set up it was set up as a one year so they had to change it to an ongoing thing otherwise that money would be sucked back in again to the Operating fund. So that's apparently what that 3000 in and out was. It was an arbitrary number, it was just done to change the postings from 2000 to 9999 and you'll see that when you drill down into it. But, again, all those columns make no sense to me other than maybe two of them. But it's there, at least, so now we know.

Honorable John Toomey - Yeah.

Lisa Scott - What I don't know and that, I think, would be a Steve question is there's 185,000 in the budget and presuming that's salary and benefits but, of course, the budget doesn't have that kind of detail.

Honorable John Toomey - I'm sorry, say that again, Lisa, you lost me.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, in the budget spreadsheet it's 185,000 and change. I'm presuming that's salary for both positions and benefits but I don't know, it doesn't say.

Adrian Fassett - I thought you just called in a number for the budget so that could be used for anything as I understand it.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, right. But the total of, in theory, both individuals if we, in fact, chose to hire them both and their benefits may or may not add up to that. It may be greater.

Adrian Fassett - But this is 2020 budget, anyway.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, but it ...

Adrian Fassett - So we would have to adjust the budget for 2021.

Lisa Scott - Well, it's our budget so in theory it would have to be adjusted it's not going to get lost, in other words, it won't go away.

Adrian Fassett - Right.

Lisa Scott - So I'm not clear on that either so those are both questions. If this is a 2020 only or into 2021 budget and what to do or what to calculate about salary and

benefits, you know, is there a magic number that generally the departments use when they're trying to figure it out. It is 30% or whatever that you add in for the benefits. Okay.

Adrian Fassett - Cause the County budget that was passed is zero.

Lisa Scott - Yeah.

Adrian Fassett - Because they left it out. So, what...how the transfer money, I mean, I still don't understand how the process works.

Lisa Scott - Right.

Adrian Fassett - Cause theoretically, the budget they passed...money in there. But we do have money, so.

Lisa Scott - Right, but our money is not in the Operating fund. Our money is in this special code fund, which now goes through 9999, not just 2020.

Adrian Fassett - Okay.

Lisa Scott - So it's not going to go away but it's still, do we have to comply with any budget regulations in the umbrella budget concept as opposed to the Operating fund.

Adrian Fassett - Okay, I got you.

Lisa Scott - Okay. So, I mean, it just took longer to get this. I thought this was a relatively simple thing but, I guess, when the executive director is hired that person would come up with their own spreadsheets, obviously, that would make sense so we could review that on an ongoing monthly basis without having to wade knee-deep in this other stuff. Is that okay?

Honorable John Toomey - It's fine.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, okay.

Let's see, all right. So, item five on the budget is the, you know, 1557, which was the Flotteron bill was amended, it went back in, it took a long time but at the end of the day it was agreed that that local law, cause Bellone signed it last week, will only affect the '20 and '21 income from Jake's 58 that we would of gotten but 2022's would go back to the campaign finance fund, obviously, unless some other bill comes in down the road but it's not an automatic rollover to go into the General fund. It was very clearly stated that it's only for the two years. So that did happen.

Adrian Fassett - Lisa, just to ...we could...we would receive another million dollars at the end of this year. Right?

Lisa Scott - No, no. 2020 and 2021 income is not going to happen to us.

Adrian Fassett - No, that's not my question. I'm saying we would have.

Lisa Scott - Oh, we would of, yes, of course. Yeah.

Adrian Fassett - At the end of 2020 and at the end of '21 so they've taken the 2020 money and the 2021. Correct?

Lisa Scott - Yes, yes.

Adrian Fassett - Okay.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, and Rob Calarco had told me that Jake's is now, and I think we talked about this informally, apparently, it's only got 40% of the whatever you call, the machines open for the public because of social distancing but they're making like 80% of what they would of made if it was full so OTB is happy, in theory, the County should be happy cause they get to keep all of their 15%. But nobody knows if it's all going to be shut down again.

Adrian Fassett - But now the 2020 money we're asking being given to us in 2021. Correct?

Lisa Scott - As far as I know because, again, that was one of my questions on the financial side to have dates of when things moved and that's not in anything. So, I will check on that as well. So, it's when does income to fund post, theoretically, cause it's not coming...cause the County budget is what? July 1st to June 30th.

Adrian Fassett - No, January 1st.

Lisa Scott - Oh, it does?

Adrian Fassett - The County budget is January 1st.

Lisa Scott - Okay because the cuts in the budget only are in for July 1st.

Adrian Fassett - That's Bellone speaking that by July 1st he will get money, revenue from...state and local money from the Feds. His plan does say, he's pushing off the cuts until July.

Lisa Scott - Right, thinking that there'll be CARES money eventually.

Adrian Fassett - Yeah, that's his theory.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, okay, okay. Yeah, as a matter of fact, one of our elite things, which I have this thing right here, we do this whole thing on the County Operating budget and debates and all this stuff and, of course, I should know it off the top of my head...yeah, the fiscal year, as you say, Adrian, starts January 1, right. What always throws me is because of the timing with, you know, corporate budgets and they tend to be part way through the year. Okay. So, we don't have any other questions other than a better picture of when that income flows from Jake's 58 when it would hit us.

Adrian Fassett - Uh-hum.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, okay. All right. Then the next question was about the moving ahead with hiring going back to where we were. You want to kind of, either one of you, just talk to that a bit about what you think.

Honorable John Toomey - I think we should probably, I mean, we're actually kind of moved pretty far ahead with Merci; her name was?

Lisa Scott - Yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - It came down to two candidates, I mean I don't see we're going to hire somebody for less than...I don't think that would probably...thing, I think we should bring maybe in the beginning of the year we could talk about it at length or as we go forward, I kind of think we're all agreed on Merci at this point. I don't know if you heard back on whether she was still...because I think she's still interested. So, I think we should come up with, you know, a plan on what the salary's going to be and when her start date, if we're all still in agreement on hiring her or, I mean, we have time we could expand the, you know, the search if we're inclined to do that. But, you know, at this point I'd rather go with, you know, with what we have.

Adrian Fassett - I agree

Lisa Scott - Yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - Any options that we have, I would think that we should set up, you know, will do that later but I think we're in, we had some type of meeting of the minds to hire her and we'll have to come up with an appropriate salary and, you know, make a job offer to her, I think, at the beginning of the year and, you know, have her come on board.

Lisa Scott - Okay.

Honorable John Toomey - I don't know, you know, the only other thing we can do is expand the search, I don't think we want to do that.

Adrian Fassett - No, no, no. no. I agree with what you said, I think and I know we theoretically had two candidates that really were...I think the young lady from Northport fit the bill and I think at this point we need to move ahead with that candidate.

Lisa Scott - Okay. As you know, I did reach out to her on email just to see if she was interested, she said clearly, yes. I said, good, you know, we'll talk to you, you know, I was very vague about, you know, she is one of the contenders, kind of thing. But she said; do I need to reapply? So, I said, again, I didn't want to speak very definitively, I said at this point, my understanding was probably not but I would get back to her after we had our meeting.

I think that is expensive, a waste of time.

Adrian Fassett - I agree.

Lisa Scott - We had a good cross-section of people. I don't think you're going to find somebody, you know, that's been hiding in the bushes on this that is like the magic, comes in for less money but is ten times better. I was impressed with her.

Adrian Fassett - I agree.

Lisa Scott - And she seems to be a self-starter, very definitely, and that's so much of what we need right now. Cause if we were to hire for January, which is what Rob was saying if we chose to hire somebody, that would be good. Not to delay it any further. That person would basically have just about a year to get all their ducks in line because the County legislators election is in November of this coming year and in theory they dive right in to being a participant in the campaign finance fund right at...as soon as they're elected because some people do start holding events in January, February, just small things but they should be deciding by then whether they're going to be in or not.

Adrian Fassett - I thought you said that Rob told you they're probably going to exempt the County Exec's...

Lisa Scott - He doesn't think there'll be enough money for it so they're probably going to have to do that.

Adrian Fassett - Okay.

Lisa Scott - Because that would be in '22, yeah, that's an even number year one, I think, recall. Right? Hang on. '23.

Honorable John Toomey - He takes office in '23 or the election's in '23?

Lisa Scott - No, cause when I moderated Kennedy and Bellone it wasn't this year, it was last year.

Honorable John Toomey - Yeah, it would been in '19.

Lisa Scott - '19.

Honorable John Toomey - Running in '23; correct. Yeah.

Lisa Scott - And it's a four-year term, not two. Yeah. But he was thinking that, you know, because of the hiatus of the fund replenishment for two years that there wouldn't be enough money for that, that particular race.

Adrian Fassett - Okay.

Lisa Scott - Plus the fact that race, because it's two new candidates, we'd...probably be primaried in both parties you would think, there'd be a lot of interest in that position for candidates to be on. And in New York State you now only have two third parties that would be allowed to have lines on the ballot; the Conservatives and Working Families with Cuomo's new scheme, the others are all out to having separate lines.

Adrian Fassett - But when is the next legislator's election?

Lisa Scott - It's two years still. The proposition did not pass.

Honorable John Toomey - The next one would be next year, November.

Lisa Scott - '21. Yeah, '21 and then '23 so nobody would have to decide about whether the County Exec race would be covered for another year-and-a-half or so. But it sounds like, even if it's Merci for Merci's work, she's got to really get most familiarized with the County legislator stuff.

Adrian Fassett - So, the people who are running next year would be eligible for ...

Lisa Scott - Yes, because that originally was when we thought we were going to move forward relatively quickly.

Adrian Fassett - She has a lot of work to do then.

Lisa Scott - Yup, one year and, again, she I'm sure will have questions so I think it behooves us to just get a couple of our own questions answered again from Steve, I guess, about personnel issues and we would have to agree on a salary that we would be offering. We had talked about it.

Honorable John Toomey - Lisa, just go back one second, I thought when they did the proposition when they didn't fund this for these two years that that pushed back the calendar as far as joining in, like Calarco, was supposed to be his last time he's running would be this time.

Lisa Scott - Right.

Honorable John Toomey - And he wanted to get into it but I thought when they did this that they pushed it off for two years.

Adrian Fassett - Because I thought too.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, well, when I said...

Honorable John Toomey - I was under the understanding that...it wouldn't be...

Lisa Scott - Yeah, you're right, you're right, you're right. But the point is that they have to make a commitment after the 2021 election so they're going to participate for '23. That's the ...

Adrian Fassett - Okay.

Honorable John Toomey - I can just put it out, I mean, I thought the COVID interruption actually bought us more time.

Adrian Fassett - Definitely.

Honorable John Toomey - And that with her coming in she actually has much more time to work this out then if everything stayed the same and she came in in the summer of 2020.

Adrian Fassett - I agree.

Honorable John Toomey - Time is less of the essence then it was previous. That's my understanding, I could be wrong.

Lisa Scott - Well, that's because we were still talking about the 2021 election when we were meeting in the spring.

Honorable John Toomey - Right, right.

Lisa Scott - And that's, yeah, it has to be '23 because people are ... fundraising.

Honorable John Toomey - Of course, yeah, but that's not what...I misunderstood in your last statement cause 2023 would be the election where our campaign funds would be up for use.

Lisa Scott - Right, right.

Honorable John Toomey - Okay so that takes...

Lisa Scott - All the guidelines, all the back-end work has to be in place.

Honorable John Toomey - Oh, right...the more time than we would of. Right.

Lisa Scott - Yeah.

Adrian Fassett - Right, but people are eligible right after next year's election.

Lisa Scott - Absolutely, yes.

Honorable John Toomey - November they'd be eligible for that, yeah.

Lisa Scott - Right, right. But, in fact, the election wouldn't occur until the calendar year '23, primaries and...

Honorable John Toomey - That's understood.

Lisa Scott - Okay, so one down the road question then is whether ...gets exempted from that and does that take legislation or how would that work.

Honorable John Toomey - Exempted from what?

Lisa Scott - From the '23 County Exec election campaign finance funds because there wouldn't be enough money potentially.

Honorable John Toomey - Well, we won't know that until we go down the road with this. We can't figure that out today.

Adrian Fassett - Right.

Lisa Scott - Well, but the process is what I need to know is if we anticipate and plus the fact we know we're not going to get money for two years; right.

Honorable John Toomey - Right.

Lisa Scott - So Rob is kind of saying, you know, no matter what, we won't have enough money for County legislators and the County Exec because the money for the fund are much, much greater in the County Exec race. So, do we just make it an internal rule or does it have to be an amended piece of legislation to take out that opportunity for the County Exec candidates in '23 to have matching funds from the County.

Adrian Fassett - I got you, okay.

Lisa Scott - All right, so that's a philosophical but real question because we need...

Adrian Fassett - Well, that's a Rob Calarco question.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, yeah, there's protocols of the Legislature, really, yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - But getting back to what we're going to do with Merci. I think that we are on the same page and that we should set up a meeting early in January, maybe the first week in January, come up with a date to bring her in, on zoom, or whatever the situation is at that time, offer her the job, like maybe start the 3rd week in January or whatever is convenient. In the meantime, we are going to have to come to an agreement on what her salary is and then go forward on to how we are going to hire an executive assistant for her.

Lisa Scott – Right well she would be a party to that, obviously.

Honorable John Toomey – Well we have to come up for a salary for that

Lisa Scott – The budget, yeah.

Honorable John Toomey – That's what we have to worry about, so that's what we could do at this point and the only monkey wrench in that is if Merci says she doesn't want the position, then we'll have to go back to the drawing board.

Lisa Scott – Right, but as of right now she is still very much interested.

Honorable John Toomey – Right, assuming she'll stay on that path. I think we made that decision so I think the next thing we have to do is to just firm it up with her and at the beginning of the year bring her in and offer her the date. Maybe we can speak or exchange on what the salary could be and at the January meeting we will vote on whether or not we want to hire her and the amount of compensation would be

Lisa Scott - Ok, do we want to zoom with her as in a small 2nd interview sooner, because nobody is going anywhere with Covid. Not to offer her the job, but just to revisit her.

Honorable John Toomey – I don't really want to do that,

Adrian Fassett - Why don't we decide on a salary,

Honorable John Toomey – Oh all right, decide on a salary now...

Adrian Fassett - Yeah

Lisa Scott – I thought we had talked about a salary already

Adrian Fassett – we did, I think we had a range originally

Lisa Scott - there originally was a range and then we talk about a middle of the range I can't remember exactly.

Honorable John Toomey – I thought it was about \$140,000

Lisa Scott – Yea, I'm sorry I would have to pull it off the computer, um, so lets just review salary. Now, do you want to do these things at our next public meeting?

Honorable John Toomey – I think you have to I don't know how else you can do that, you know

Lisa Scott – So, WE should have a zoom in a week or so

Honorable John Toomey – In a week from today if you want to have another meeting. You know and exchange some thoughts on what the salary was going to be and then bring her in at the next meeting and offer her the job at that point

Adrian Fassett – Right

Lisa Scott – Okay

Honorable John Toomey – As far as the target hiring date, I would say the second half of January, on or about January 15th which gives us 30 days from this point.

Lisa Scott – I'm sorry January 15th for what?

Honorable John Toomey – So you have a target hiring date in your agenda

Lisa Scott – you mean to actually offer her as the start date

Honorable John Toomey – yes, the starting date

Lisa Scott – so when would you anticipate just roughly actually making the offer

Honorable John Toomey – I would say the first business week of 2021

Lisa Scott – only because I'm thinking of it from a pragmatic point of view if you offer somebody a job and then you tell them your start date is next week...

Honorable John Toomey – it's a target date, it doesn't mean that the date, it's usually interpreted to mean 30 days from that date, it could be February 1st, its just a target date

Lisa Scott – okay

Adrian Fassett – the person may want to start right immediately

Lisa Scott – Right, the salary starts on first day. And Steve did say there is plenty of room in the Dennison bldg., so there is an office

Honorable John Toomey – another thing we should do is check with him and find out exactly where the office is going to be, it might be good for us to check it out, so we have a little bit of an idea where we are sending her

Adrian Fassett – I think that is a good idea,

Honorable John Toomey – but with the Covid thing, we could do it in the future.

Lisa Scott – we can even do it virtually, I mean there is no reason why we can't do it the way real estates do it. You bring the camera in and you show it. Also, I assume that CFB is going to pay the rent, right?

Honorable John Toomey – I don't know if there is rent?

Adrian Fassett – I don't think there is a rent.

Lisa Scott – there is no rent?

Honorable John Toomey – We'll find that out

Lisa Scott - I mean from a corporate point of view, even if the corporation owns the building, you get an allocation of the cost

Adrian Fassett – that's a good one

Lisa Scott – but I don't know how it works in the public sphere at all

Adrian Fassett – me neither, so that's a good question

Honorable John Toomey – you can ask it, I would just assume were not paying it

Lisa Scott – yea, because I think he would have put something in, in the budget, but again, just to ask, you know, phone, computer, (allocated overheads?)

Lisa Scott – Should I email Merci and just say we would like to speak to her again and set up a zoom for right after Christmas sometime?

Honorable John Toomey – I would do it after New Years

Lisa Scott – Okay, after January 1st, okay so the 6th or 7th. What we also have to look at with Steve is hiring timeline, in other words, if someone accepts a job, is there a window of time from a county perspective before they can actually go on payroll. All right. Adrian is there anything you can think of that we might be skipping over?

Adrian Fassett – I think when we do find out if we have to pay rent, phone and all that, I think that we should come up with a budget for next year. I would not want to leave that to the Executive Director. I think that is something that we should give her a budget, which obviously, unless we do give her a personal budget, if there are some issues, that is something she can negotiate back and forth with the board with us.

Lisa Scott – Okay, good.

Adrian Fassett – Because we have a million dollars and we have two years, that's a lot of money

Lisa Scott – Right

Honorable John Toomey – that's a lot of money without being spent except on salaries, but still a lot of money.

Lisa Scott – And, how you do a sort of expectation of 14 races, 14 primaries, what's your max exposure, you know that kind of stuff. Because that has to come out of the million.

Adrian Fassett – we will be getting another million again. remember November people will be eligible again. But then that January we should get another million dollars

Lisa Scott – In theory

Adrian Fassett – Right, in theory

Honorable John Toomey – Well, if we don't then we are out of business.

Lisa Scott – No, that was Rob's point, we could do it probably with the million for one round of the county legislature.

Honorable John Toomey – that depends on how many primaries you get, I mean you know

Lisa Scott – Right, no but that's my point, we should have an understanding,

Adrian Fassett – okay, I gotcha, I understand,

Lisa Scott – It's a pro forma, it not saying we are going to do that, he doesn't think that a lot people would even accept the deal, they want to spend more on their own. But you need to have that, it would be fair to give that to the Executive Director ultimately as, you know, this is your maximum exposure looking forward. Okay but a lot of that would be done by the Executive Director

Honorable John Toomey – I would say, she would have about 700,000 dollars left over, probably about what she would be looking at.

Lisa Scott – Right, right. So, do we want to get together next Thursday then probably, just for a short touch base

Honorable John Toomey – I could do Thursday

Adrian Fassett – Let me look at my calendar real quick.

Lisa Scott – Jack are there certain day that are worse than others for you?

Honorable John Toomey – I cannot do Wednesday next week, I can do Thursday or Friday next week.

Adrian Fassett – I could do it but it would have to be at 10:30, I have a meeting 8:30 to 10:30, so I could jump on at 10:30

Honorable John Toomey – 10:30 is good

Lisa Scott – That's fine with me. What about Tuesday?

Gina Popovich – That is not good, there is a General Meeting that Day, Dan will be in the meeting and maybe Steve.

Lisa Scott – Ok, I take that back. So, we will go back to Thursday at 10:30a. Ill email you the Steve questions just as a draft just to make sure I don't leave anything out. And include him and both of you obviously and get some answers on a few of the things, okay?

Adrian Fassett – Sounds good

Lisa Scott – Gina I will send you the recording

Good byes exchanged

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 17th 2020 at 10:30 am

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 10:41am*)*