

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY

HELD AT HEADQUARTERS, HIGHLAND, N.Y. ON  
MARCH 19, 2009

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Business agenda documents/reports are mailed to the Board Members and General Counsel one week prior to the meeting. Web casting of Board meetings is effective as of the July 19, 2007 meeting. A copy of the web cast will be kept as part of the Board meeting files.

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Sproat, James P., Chairman  
Dressel, Roderick O., Vice Chairman  
Gerentine, Richard A., Commissioner  
Paradies, Walter A., Commissioner

Carl G. Whitbeck, Jr., Counsel

OFFICERS:

Sinnott, George C., Secretary  
Sewell, John R., Treasurer

Absent:

Carter, Robert P., Commissioner  
Teator, David A., Commissioner

Chairman Sproat called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. and welcomed everyone. On motion of Commissioner Paradies, seconded by Vice Chairman Dressel, the minutes of the February 19, 2009 regular meeting were adopted unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

1) IBTTA 2009 Membership Dues

Mr. Russo stated that the Authority has been a member since its inception in 1932 and the dues schedule is based on each member's toll revenue for the prior year. Based on the audited toll revenue for 2008 the dues for 2009 is \$17,376 approximately a 1% decrease from last year. Commissioner Gerentine inquired about last year's cost. Chairman Dressel stated the organization was an important information source to the toll industry and found their conferences invaluable. On motion of Vice Chairman Dressel, seconded by Chairman Sproat the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-016

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the New York State Bridge Authority is an active member of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA); and

WHEREAS, the Authority has received an invoice for its annual IBTTA membership dues for the year 2009 in the amount of \$17,376.00 ; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that payment to the IBTTA is approved in the amount of \$17,376 for the Authority's 2009 membership dues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C Sinnott, Secretary

2) Prompt Payment Annual Report

Mr. Russo stated that pursuant to the Prompt Payment Policy Section 207.4b, copies of the Prompt Payment Annual Report are to be mailed within ninety days of the end of the fiscal year to the State Comptroller, the State Director of the Budget, the Chairman of the State Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Russo stated that the Authority's report noted a late charge (\$4.32) because of a payment to UPS that was initially mailed, in error, to FedEx. On motion of Commissioner Paradies, seconded by Commissioner Gerentine, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-017

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the New York State Bridge Authority Prompt Payment Policy as adopted by this Authority in compliance with §2880 of the Public Authorities Law requires an annual report on the scope and implementation of such policy be submitted to the Board for review purposes within ninety (90) days after the close of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director has compiled and submitted such a report reflecting the requirements of Section 207.4 of such Policy; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the New York State Bridge Authority does hereby approve the described report for fiscal year 2008 filed herewith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

3) Annual Procurement Report

Mr. Russo stated that the Public Authorities Law and the Authority's Guidelines for Establishing Standards for the Use, Award, Monitoring and Reporting of Procurement Contracts requires an annual report detailing information on contracts over \$5,000 entered into during 2008 or ongoing from previous years. After a discussion relative to the Authority's MWBE goals, Chairman Sproat called for a motion. On motion of Commissioner Paradies, seconded by Vice Chairman Dressel, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-018

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the Board has received and reviewed the Authority's 2008 annual procurement report in accordance with its Procurement Guidelines and pursuant to Section 2879 of the Public Authorities Law; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the report is hereby approved and authorized for official submission as required by the Public Authorities Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C Sinnott, Secretary

4) Personal Property Disposal Guideline and Annual Report

Mr. Russo stated that the Pursuant to the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, one of the requirements states that Authorities must annually review its guidelines for the disposal of property and furthermore, that the Board must re-designate a contracting officer to be responsible for such disposals. In addition and based on Article 9, Title 5-A, of the Public Authorities Law, the Board must also approve annually a report listing all real property as well as a report of real and personal property disposed during the fiscal year. The reports are then submitted to various State offices as listed in the guidelines. On motion of Vice Chairman Dressel, seconded by Commissioner Paradies, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-019

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the Public Authority Accountability Act of 2005 requires that Authorities annually review and re-adopt guidelines for the disposal of property subject to Article 9, Title 5-A of the Public Authorities Law; and

WHEREAS, the Authority Board has received and reviewed its disposal guidelines; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the "Guidelines and Procedures for the Disposal of Personal Property" are hereby re-adopted and that the Board re-designates the Director of Administrative Services as its Contracting Officer with the duties and responsibilities as described within the "guidelines"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.

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George C Sinnott, Secretary

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-020

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the Public Authority Accountability Act of 2005 requires that Authorities submit annually a report listing all real property owned by the Authority together with a report of all real and personal property disposed subject to Article 9, Title 5-A of the Public Authorities Law; and

WHEREAS, the Authority Board has received and reviewed the subject reports; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the annual Real Property and the Disposal of Personal Property reports for 2008 are hereby approved for submission in accordance with the reporting requirements of Article 9, Title 5-A of the Public Authorities Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.

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George C Sinnott, Secretary

ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE:

1) Mid-Hudson Bridge Inspection and Evaluation

Mr. Moreau indicated four firms submitted bids on March 10, 2009 in response to the advertisement in the NYS Contract Reporter. Mr. Moreau stated he would like to award a contract to the lowest bidder, Piasecki Steel Construction Co., Inc. at a not-to-exceed cost of \$814,000.00. Mr. Moreau indicated that for this project the contractor will install main cable scaffolding for the unwrapping and wedging of the main cable at eight locations and perform a detail inspection of the main cable strands. In addition the contractor will also repair individual broken or sampled strands as directed by the consulting engineers and upon completion of the inspection; the contractor will re-compact and re-wrap the main cable sections. After a discussion relative to the Authority's estimated cost of \$1,200,000.00, Chairman Sproat called for a motion to accept the Engineering proposal. On motion of Vice Chairman Dressel, seconded by Commissioner Paradies, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-021

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, bids were solicited through the New York State Contract Reporter for the contract entitled Mid-Hudson Bridge "Main Cable Investigation" (BA2009-RE-103-CM) and four (4) bids were received on March 10, 2009; the low bidder being the firm of Piasecki Steel Construction Co., Inc. at a bid of \$814,000.00; and

WHEREAS, it is hereby determined that such project constitutes a Type II Action as defined under the State Environmental Quality Review Regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617, which has been determined under such regulations not to have a significant negative impact on the environment; now therefore

WHEREAS, after further review of the cost proposal by the Engineering Department, it is recommended that a contract be awarded to the firm of Piasecki Steel Construction Co., Inc.; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that a contract be awarded to Piasecki Steel Construction Co., Inc., of Castleton, New York in the amount not-to-exceed \$814,000.00 pending the filing of proper certifications, and the receipt of bonding and insurance requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

2) Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge (KRB) Rt. 199 Park and Ride

Mr. Moreau indicated economic stimulus money has come to Dutchess County through the proposed park and ride project on the east approach of the KRB. The final construction documents are currently being prepared and responsibility for snow plowing and street lighting is requested from the Bridge Authority. The cost of electricity for five streetlights will be approximately \$125.00/month. If the Authority is willing to maintain the lot, the DOT would like a Board resolution. After a discussion relative to whether a MOU would be necessary and the Authority's liability, it was noted that there would be no liability on the Authority's part according to legal counsel. Chairman Sproat called for a motion. On motion of Vice Chairman Dressel, seconded by Commissioner Paradies, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-022

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that cooperating with the NYS DOT to construct a Park and Ride on the East Approach of the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge is consistent with our mission; and

WHEREAS, it is hereby determined that such project constitutes a Type II Action as defined under the State Environmental Quality Review Regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617, which has been determined under such regulations not to have a significant negative impact on the environment; now therefore

WHEREAS, the NYS DOT will be funding all design and construction costs; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Authority will be responsible for snow removal and street lighting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

3) International Bridge Conference, Pittsburg, PA, June 2009

Mr. Moreau indicated he had prepared a paper on the problems and solution to the exodermic deck repairs at the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge and the paper had been accepted for presentation at the International Bridge Conference in Pittsburgh, PA this June. Travel costs would be the cost of registration, travel and two nights' accommodations, approximately \$1,200.00. On motion of Commissioner Paradies, seconded by Vice Chairman Dressel, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**

**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-023

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the request for William J. Moreau to attend the International Bridge Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania June 14<sup>th</sup> through June 17<sup>th</sup> ; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that attendance at the workshop is authorized in accordance with the travel request form estimated at \$1,200.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

4) Monthly Jobs in Progress Report

Mr. Moreau presented the Engineering report and stated that the construction of the new maintenance building at the Mid-Hudson Bridge was nearing completion. Also discussed was the replacement of the modular deck expansion joints at the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge (North Span). Chairman Sproat called for a motion. On motion of Vice Chairman Dressel, seconded by Commissioner Paradies, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**

**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-024

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the monthly Engineering Progress Report on Capital Project Status; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Engineering Progress Report is accepted as an instrument documenting the Board's briefing of Capital Construction activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

FINANCIAL:

1) Investment Report

Mr. Sewell reviewed with the Board the Investment Report for the month of February and the purchase of New York State General Obligation Bonds. A discussion followed relative to various investments including Treasury obligations and municipal bonds. Chairman Sproat called for a motion. On motion of Vice Chairman Dressel, seconded by Commissioner Gerentine, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-025

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the investment control procedures for the New York State Bridge Authority provide that the Board shall review and approve the report of investment transactions completed since the meeting of the Board on February 19, 2009; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the New York State Bridge Authority does hereby concur with and approve the investment report as filed with this body on this date for the purpose noted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

2) Annual Investment Report – 2008

Mr. Sewell stated the Authority's Investment Guidelines adopted pursuant to Public Authorities Law requires the subject report. Mr. Sewell continued by informing the Board on the report content and providing them an outline on the following:

- Independent Accountant Report on compliance with Authority Investment Guidelines.
- The Investment Guidelines. There were no amendments in 2008.
- Investment income record and cost of investment associated services.

Chairman Sproat called for a motion. On motion of Vice Chairman Dressel, seconded by Commissioner Gerentine, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-026

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, Public Authorities Law §2800 requires that an annual report be prepared and submitted to the Board for approval; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the New York State Bridge Authority does hereby approve the Annual Report pursuant to Public Authorities Law §2800 for the fiscal year 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary



3) Public Authorities Law Section 2800 Annual Financial Report

Mr. Sewell drew the Board's attention to the annual report and the individual reports and schedules that comprise it and indicated it will be sent to the Authority Budget Office, the State Comptroller and the ranking majority and minority members of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means committees. After a brief discussion, Chairman Sproat called for a motion. On motion of Commissioner Paradies, seconded by Commissioner Gerentine, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-027

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, Public Authorities Law §2800 requires that an annual report be prepared and submitted to the Board for approval; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the New York State Bridge Authority does hereby approve the Annual Report pursuant to Public Authorities Law §2800 for the fiscal year 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19th day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

4) Insurance Fund Balance Determination

Mr. Sewell stated that, per the requirements of its General Revenue Bond Resolution, the Authority maintains insurances to protect it against various risks. Where insurance carries a significant deductible, such as with the property damage and loss of revenue policy on the bridges, the Resolution has established an Insurance Fund, the balance of which will cover this deductible. Modjeski & Masters, Inc., our Consulting Engineers, in the attached copy of a Professional Certificate, has determined \$8,839,620 to be the proper Insurance Fund balance by multiplying the \$294,654,000 replacement value of the South Span at Newburgh-Beacon by the 3% deductible amount. This amount, determined by resolution, is the amount necessary to enable the Authority to comply with Section 7.14 of the Bond Resolution, relating to multi-risk insurance on the bridges. After a discussion relative to operating income and expenses, Chairman Sproat called for a motion. On motion of Commissioner Gerentine, seconded by Vice Chairman Dressel, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-028

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the report relative to determining the adequate balance in the Insurance Fund; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the balance shall be \$8,839,620 as recommended by the consulting Engineers, Modjeski and Masters, Inc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19th day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

1) TRANSCOM 2009 Annual Membership Dues

Mr. Herd indicated the 2009 invoice amount of \$62,692.00 is a 3.2% or \$1,943.00 increase over the previous fiscal year and that the Authority's membership contribution is 1.96% of the total membership dues and is consistent with the recently approved 2009 TRANSCOM Budget. After a discussion relative to the cost of other members and the operation of TRANSCOM, Chairman Sproat called for a motion. On motion of Vice Chairman Dressel, seconded by Commissioner Paradies, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-029

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has reviewed the memorandum regarding the annual membership dues for TRANSCOM; and

BE IT RESOLVED that this payment (BA-2009-OA-006-OT) is hereby approved at a cost not-to-exceed \$62,692.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

OPERATIONS:

1) New York State Thruway E-ZPass Transactions – Fourth Quarter 2008

Mr. Ferguson indicated that he and the manager of toll systems reviewed the invoice from the New York State Thruway Authority for the fourth quarter 2008 for the Authority E-ZPass expenses for the period October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 and found them to be true and accurate and as such, recommends that the invoice be paid in the amount of \$602,711.75. After a brief discussion relative to transactions and cost comparisons for the 2008 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and the 2007 quarter, Chairman Sproat called for a motion to authorize payment of this invoice. On motion of Commissioner Gerentine, seconded by Vice Chairman Dressel, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-030

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the report relative to the payment to the New York State Thruway Authority for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008 Bridge Authority E-ZPass costs in the amount of \$602,711.75; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this payment is hereby approved at a cost not-to-exceed \$602,711.75; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PLANNING:

### 1) Records Retention

Mr. Bellucci indicated the Authority is required to adopt a schedule for records retention pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law. In the Authority's case, it is Records Retention and Disposition Schedule MI-1 and is not as stringent as state agencies policy. A timeframe was provided as to the proper and legal disposal of records no longer needed. Mr. Bellucci further indicated adoption of the schedule is also a prerequisite to receiving any grant monies the Authority has applied for to assist in this project. Chairman Sproat called for a motion. On motion of Vice Chairman Dressel, seconded by Commissioner Gerentine, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

### **NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY** **BOARD RESOLUTION**

Resolution No.: 009-031

Resolution Date: March 19, 2009

WHEREAS, the New York State Bridge Authority seeks the proper management and disposition of its public records and is currently working with the NYS Archives to implement a comprehensive records management system; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that *Records Retention and Disposition Schedule MI-1*, issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Article 57-A that records will be disposed of that are described in *Records Retention and Disposition Schedule MI-1* after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein and records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to take the necessary measures to implement this resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution has been duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

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George C. Sinnott, Secretary

### 2) Briefing to the Board:

#### a. Suicide Prevention Training

As noted a few months ago, the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) developed a program called SafeTalk, suicide awareness and an education program, designed for those who are not in the mental health profession. OMH has provided, free of charge to NYSBA staff, five separate sessions at each of the bridge facilities.

#### b. Bridge Music

This project is coming to fruition with a planned public opening scheduled for around June 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bertolozzi has redesigned the project to include short range FM broadcasts of ten different compositions available at Waryas Park and the Johnson-Iorio Park and two listening stations at the towers on the Mid-Hudson Bridge. Mr. Bertolozzi is working closely with Bill Moreau, the Authority's Chief Engineer, on the project. One

major change is that there is no live performance, so the whole project has become a lot simpler won't require climbing around the bridge. Installation for equipment is all being provided at Mr. Bertolozzi's cost. General Counsel has drafted a basic agreement that spells out the responsibilities. In addition, the Quadricentennial Committee in Poughkeepsie is hosting the opening, so "*Bridge Music*" is becoming part of the year-long schedule of events. "*Bridge Music*" received international media attention and really put the spotlight on NYSBA and the Mid-Hudson Bridge.

c. Walkway Trail Loop

While the Railroad Bridge Walkway grand opening isn't planned until early October, the Mid-Hudson Bridge will be incorporated into a trail loop that includes both sides of the river, several parks and both bridges. The design of this trail, which goes over the public walkway on the Mid-Hudson, will include a number of signs and educational displays. Mr. Bellucci worked extensively with the Walkway People, State Parks, the Town of Lloyd, the City of Poughkeepsie and Scenic Hudson to make sure the project is a success and that there are no negative impacts to bridge traffic.

d. Quadricentennial Events

The bridges have always been landmarks and attract various activities in their communities. This year, the interest is even higher. In addition to a set of large banners for the Quadricentennial, more and more requests for the use of the bridges are being received. While most of these events are incidental and generally involve little impact, the Authority wants to encourage anyone planning any function on or near a bridge to contact the Authority. The Authority has received requests for annual charity walk-a-thons and bike rides to new requests for a Quadricentennial Bridge Run, Triathlon over the Bear Mountain and a Boy Scout Hike over the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and second graders from both sides of the river meeting in the middle of the walkway on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. A request for a small wedding ceremony on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge was even received. Mr. Bellucci indicated the Authority must ensure an activity is safe and has minimal impact on traffic before approving an event noting, however, that interest this year is exceptional.

e. Peregrine Falcons

Finally the annual Falcon watch has begun by interested parties and the birds are around the nest but there are no eggs yet. IT staff have the camera feed up and running and has given the information to DEC so they can update their Falcon Cam web page and make it available to the public.

REPORTS TO BOARD:

1) Monthly Activity Report of the Executive Director

The Monthly Activity Report was submitted by the Executive Director and Mr. Sinnott indicated there were no expenditures for the month of February.

This concluded the agenda of the regular meeting. On motion of Chairman Sproat, seconded by Vice Chairman Dressel, and approved unanimously, the regular meeting adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2009 at 3:00 P.M. at Headquarters.