

## **Unclassified Public Hearing Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 23, 2007**

**Public Hearing Agenda # 010**

**Good morning everyone. My name is Anthony Bucci and I am the State Personnel Administrator and I am employed at the Rhode Island Department of Administration.**

**I am here today to conduct an “Unclassified” Public Hearing on behalf of Beverly E. Najarian, Director of the Department of Administration. This hearing is being conducted pursuant to Chapter 36-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, specifically Sections 36-4-16 and 36-4-16.2, 36-4-16.4 and 36-6-3.**

**For the record, today is Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at 9:10 am. Notice of this Public Hearing was posted on Thursday, January 18, 2007 on each of the five floors within the Department of Administration, the State House Library and electronically filed with the Secretary of State.**

**Specific proposals are contained in Public Hearing Agenda # 010. Copies of the Agenda are available if anyone needs a copy.**

**The purpose of this Hearing is to allow for public comments concerning the proposed amendments to the Unclassified Service Classification and Pay Plan.**

**In terms of process, it is important to note that all comments will be “recorded” and this record shall be “reviewed” by the Director of the Department of Administration and the Governor of the State of Rhode Island. Subsequently, a final decision will be made and that decision will be implemented. Further, Agenda Item # 8, the proposed base salary change/adjustment for the “Director, Department of Transportation”, shall be immediately referred to the General Assembly for its thirty (30) day review. Unless the agenda item is rejected by formal action of the House of Representatives and the Senate acting concurrently within that time, the agenda item will go into effect as proposed and defined in the agenda for January 21, 2007.**

**If you wish to make a comment on the proposed amendments, I ask that you please step up to the microphone at the front of the room, please identify yourself and “spell” your last name for the record and if you are representing an organization please identify that organization. Finally, if you have any written comments you are welcome to provide a copy.**

**There are eight (8) items on the agenda for consideration and comment. I will proceed by identifying each item being proposed individually and subsequently, those of you wishing to provide public comment may do so.**

• Agenda Item # 1, page 1 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Chair, Coordination Team for Bays, Rivers and Watersheds” for appointed incumbent Ames Borden Colt. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 1?

Public comment: J. Michael Downey, President of AFSCME – Council 94

“Go on record as opposed, I have a note from the Governor dated January 12, 2007 no hiring, no travel, no overtime. My position is if there (administration) going to hire new positions why don’t they hire cook helper positions at the University of Rhode Island. They need them as much as these high paying jobs especially those paying up to \$86,000. My understanding is that there is a shortfall in the budget in the State of Rhode Island and (he is) just surprised that those kinds of jobs would be created.”

• Agenda Item # 2, page 3 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Executive Director – Office of Film and Television” and the Reallocation of Steven Feinberg. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 2?

Public comment: J. Michael Downey, President of AFSCME – Council 94

“Again for the record I would be opposed to creating these high paying jobs. Many I represent are grade 9 and 10 and again when they see grade 839 they (union members) don’t know what state (RI) they are living in when we are getting 3% pay raises making \$20,000 with a \$600 raise. To

## **Unclassified Public Hearing Agenda # 010**

**Minutes of proceeding**

**January 23, 2007**

**Page 2 of 3**

**create these new jobs during this financial climate, I believe it is wrong. I am opposed to creating such high paying jobs.”**

**• Agenda Item # 3, page 4 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Executive Director – Governor’s Workforce Board” which is currently vacant. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 3?**

**Public comment: J. Michael Downey, President of AFSCME – Council 94**

**“Again go on record ...I just listened to the Governor on a local radio show talking about a difficult financial climate. I don’t think it holds well to be awarding jobs and posting jobs at \$90,000.”**

**• Agenda Item # 4, page 6 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Director – Management Information Systems (Lottery)” and the Reallocation of the incumbent, Joseph R. Santurri. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 4?**

**Public comment: J. Michael Downey, President of AFSCME – Council 94**

**“Again, another new position well over \$70,000 when state employees are doing a lot of work without any help...management**

**jobs like that should not be posted and filled at this time.”**

**• Agenda Item # 5, page 7 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Video Lottery Systems Manager” which is currently vacant. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 5? (no public comment)**

**• Agenda Item # 6, page 9 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Video Lottery Program Auditor” which is currently vacant. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 6? (no public comment)**

**• Agenda Item # 7, page 10 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Lottery Sales and Marketing Manager” and the Reallocation of the incumbent, Donald J. Cataldi. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 7? (no public comment)**

**• Agenda Item # 8, page 12 proposes a Base Salary Change/Adjustment for the classification of “Director, Department of Transportation” for appointed incumbent, Jerome F. Williams. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 8?**

**Public comment: J. Michael Downey, President of AFSCME – Council 94**

**“Regarding the Director of Department of Transportation, if I’m not mistaken it’s over a \$14,000 raise... even making more than the former Director of DOT who worked for the state for 20 years. I think**

it's ludicrous that during these budget times somebody making \$130,000 would have to move up to \$143,000. We will keep it in mind when negotiations come up for the state employees that I represent, city employees and all the employees that Council 94 represents... certainly keeping in mind these kind of raises people at the top of the state system are able to get. We are opposed to this kind of raise for any state employee."

Are there any other comments?

Public comment: Salvatore Lombardi, President of Local 2884 AFSCME – Council 94

"As President of Local 2884 I represent 16 state agencies in government. I don't wish any harm to anyone. I wish anyone luck as far as getting raises. I notice the excuse for getting these raises were that a lot of them were taking on new duties, extra duties in state government. Over the years, other state employees have taken on new duties and have not been compensated and are still working at the low wages they have been for years and years and years. The average salary of the people I represent is \$32,000 a year. Some are working two jobs taking on two duties because

Unclassified Public Hearing Agenda # 010

Minutes

January 23, 2007

Page 3 of 3

people are taken out of the workforce either through retirement or

**through abolishment of jobs. They (jobs) haven't been filled because they (administration) say they can't afford to. My suggestion would be to wait until the budget is settled this year before making a decision on any of these raises to see if we can afford to give people raises. At such a critical time, and supposedly the Governor keeps preaching shortfall, shortfall, shortfall, this is not the time to give people any sort of raises when we are at such a critical state in state government and our budget is such a mess. Thank you."**

**Are there any other comments?**

**Hearing none, I declare this public hearing closed. It is now 9:20 am.**

**Thank you for taking the time to attend.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Anthony A. Bucci**

**Personnel Administrator**