



From: Broadcasting Board of Governors

Date: August 17, 2012

Subject: **Transcript of BBG Meeting at 12:00 P.M. EDT on August 17, 2012**

On August 17, the members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met at 12:00 p.m. EDT in a special session by telephone to receive and consider staff recommendations regarding the Agency's FY 2014 budget proposal. According to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-11, Section 22.1, all agency budgetary materials and data are considered confidential prior to the President submitting a budget to Congress. In accordance with section 22.5 of Circular A-11, the BBG determined that its meeting should be closed to public observation pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B).

The meeting was attended by the following Board members and staff via telephone:

Governor Michael Lynton
Governor Susan McCue
Governor Michael Meehan
Governor Dennis Mulhaupt
Governor Dana Perino
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine
Director of Communications and External Affairs Lynne Weil

The meeting was attended by the following Board member and staff at BBG headquarters in Washington, D.C.:

Governor Victor Ashe
Director of the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) Richard Lobo
IBB Deputy Director Jeffrey Trimble
IBB Chief of Staff Marie Lennon
Chief Financial Officer Maryjean Buhler
Deputy General Counsel and Board Secretary Paul Kollmer-Dorsey
Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran
Budget Analyst Genice Shoultz
Executive Assistant to the IBB Director Douglas Schuette

ASHE: I'm sitting in the room with Marie Lennon, Paul Kollmer, Jeff Trimble, Maryjean Buhler, Dick Lobo, myself, and Oanh Tran and I believe Steve, Douglas who does the tape recording and that's it. No one else is in this room.

LYNTON: Great. I'm calling the meeting to order. Thank you, Victor. I have called the meeting to order. I note that this is a closed meeting of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, subject to the requirement of the Government in the Sunshine Act, the meeting will be conducted

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telephonically in order to receive and consider staff recommendations regarding the FY 2014 budget proposal. So, shall we take a vote on the... Do I need to read through the balance, Paul?

MEEHAN: So Governor Lynton, I think that we'd like to...maybe I want...staff could make sure I'm right on this. We've read scenarios one and two of the budget submissions. We want the staff to note a third submission where we could make some adjustments in some of the numbers and then we can vote on that. Would that make sense?

LYNTON: Yes.

MEEHAN: So, Maryjean, are you there?

BUHLER: Yes, I'm here.

LYNTON: Maryjean?

BUHLER: I'm here.

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

BUHLER: Okay.

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

BUHLER: Yes.

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

BUHLER: I don't think I have the details on that, no.

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

BUHLER: VOA, are you talking about the sum for what's in these?

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

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BUHLER: Right.

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

LYNTON: Yes.

BUHLER: [REDACTED]

MEEHAN: Correct.

BUHLER: Okay.

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

BUHLER: Okay.

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

LYNTON: Those were it.

BUHLER: [REDACTED]

LYNTON: We didn't address those.

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

SONENSHINE: [REDACTED]

LYNTON: Great.

BUHLER: [REDACTED]

ASHE: Right.

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

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BUHLER: Okay.

LOBO: [REDACTED]

ASHE: I think we'll just come back to that later if we need to.

MEEHAN: Yeah.

ASHE: Does Governor Meehan need a second to his motion?

TRIMBLE: May I just get Board guidance on a couple of other issues, just to be clear as we finalize this?

LYNTON: Sure Jeff, we have three minutes and then we lose our quorum.

ASHE: We still don't have a second to Meehan's motion.

LYNTON: I second.

ASHE: Okay, we do now have a second.

TRIMBLE: [REDACTED]

MULHAUPT: Michael Meehan says yes.

MEEHAN: Yes.

TRIMBLE: [REDACTED]

MULHAUPT: [REDACTED]

ASHE: [REDACTED]

MCCUE: Me too.

ASHE: [REDACTED]

BUHLER: [REDACTED]

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TRIMBLE: [REDACTED]

MEEHAN: [REDACTED]

ASHE: I think, Jeff, that's a conversation to have later in the day.

TRIMBLE: [REDACTED]

MCCUE: [REDACTED]

SONENSHINE: [REDACTED]

TRIMBLE: Thank you for that guidance.

BUHLER: [REDACTED]

ASHE: That's okay.

LYNTON: That's okay.

LYNTON: We're about to lose our quorum in one minute.

LOBO: Do you want to call for a vote?

ASHE: Governor Lynton does Meehan have a second to his motion?

LYNTON: I will second.

ASHE: All right. Well, you're the presiding chairman and I presume you're ready for a vote.

LYNTON: I'm ready for the vote. All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

LYNTON: Those opposed? It's passed.

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ASHE: Mr. Chairman, I would move in light of the prior discussion that the Board directs the Strategy and Budget Committee to review the issue of PNN and report back to the Board as expeditiously as possible.

SONENSHINE: Second.

ASHE: You probably need a vote just for the record.

LYNTON: All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

LYNTON: Opposed? Okay, that's passed.

ASHE: Unanimous.

LOBO: So you want to postpone the decision about that memo or the letter till later on?

SONENSHINE: I would ask to defer it to the next Board meeting.

LYNTON: Yes.

LOBO: That's the middle of September.

MEEHAN: Or can we have a committee work on it in the meantime or not?

SONENSHINE: I think we ought to talk about the formation of a committee at the next meeting so don't just jumble something together.

ASHE: Right, and I think there is a general thought, remember this is being recorded, that maybe we want to de-politicize it as much as possible. And maybe waiting until after we know the identity of the next President might be preferable.

LYNTON: Yeah.

MULHAUPT: I got to sign off, I'm afraid, now.

LYNTON: I do as well.

MEEHAN: Bye Dennis. Bye Michael, thanks.

ASHE: Meeting adjourned.