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LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING OF THE
AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday, July 24, 2009

1:35 p.m.

Capitol Plaza Hotel
1717 Southwest Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Herbert R. Garten, Chairman
Thomas R. Meites

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Victor M. Fortuno, Vice President for Legal
Affairs, General Counsel, and Corporate
Secretary
Charles Jeffress, Chief Administrative Officer
Jeffrey Schanz, Inspector General
Ronald (Dutch) Merryman, Assistant Inspector
General for Audits
Linda Perle, Center for Law & Social Policy
(CLASP)
Tom Hester, Counsel, Office of the Inspector
General
Matthew C. Glover, Associate Counsel, Office of
the Inspector General (by telephone)
Laurie Tarantowicz, Counsel, Office of the
Inspector General (by telephone)

1 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right, I'm
2 going to call to order the meeting of the Audit
3 Committee held this day, July 24, 2009. And
4 you have before you the agenda, and I'll ask
5 for a motion to approve it.

6 MR. MEITES: So moved.

7 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right. Could I
8 have second? I'll second it. I might tell you
9 that Jonann Chiles is not able to join us, so
10 the Committee will consist of Tom Meites and
11 myself at this meeting. Is there anybody on
12 the phone that has joined us?

13 MS. TARANTOWICZ: Yes. This is
14 Laurie Tarantowicz and Matthew Glover from the
15 LSC OIG.

16 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Okay, thank you.
17 Anybody else? Okay. We hope we don't lose
18 you. And from time to time we'll check to see
19 you're still with us, Laurie. All right, I now
20 would like motions approving the minutes of the
21 Committee's October 31, 2008, and that was the
22 one we had in Salt Lake City. Do I have a
23 motion?

24 MR. MEITES: So moved.

25 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Second.

1 MR. MEITES: Approved.

2 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Approved. And then
3 the next minutes that have to be approved was
4 our meeting of Friday, April 24th, 2009 in
5 Portland, Oregon. Do I have a motion?

6 MR. MEITES: Move the approval.

7 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: I second it.

8 MR. MEITES: Approved.

9 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Moving on, we're
10 going to have a report on the Fiscal 2008
11 Annual Audit findings on classification of
12 consultants and update on Management's response
13 to the OIG Audit of LSC's Consultant Contracts.
14 And we have presentations to be made by Vick
15 Fortuno, Charles Jeffress, Jeffrey Schanz, and
16 Ronald Merryman. And shall we take them in
17 that order?

18 MR. FORTUNO: Sure.

19 MR. JEFFRESS: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Okay. So, Vick,
21 will you start?

22 MR. FORTUNO: Yes. As you may
23 recall, the Annual Audit for LSC this year, for
24 this past year, which was released earlier this
25 year - calendar year, had a note in it about

1 how LSC treated certain workers. And the
2 corporation said it would go ahead and hear
3 from OLA and get the opinion of outside
4 counsel. We - you know, we certainly discussed
5 it. We've been discussing it for some time,
6 and discussed it with outside counsel.

7 We did retain a firm to look at this and
8 had people with expertise in this area, both
9 labor and tax, review it and study it carefully
10 and then have a conversation with us, where
11 they essentially confirmed what - what - the
12 conclusion that we had reached internally, and
13 the discussions since then have been how to -
14 what changes, if any, need to be made in order
15 to conform to the advice. And I think that's
16 what the short memo I circulated, dated the
17 June 10th, which actually appears in your Board
18 book as both - at both page 124 and 126, I see
19 two copies - addresses.

20 MR. JEFFRESS: The confidential
21 section of the Board book addresses privileged,
22 larger client communication issues, so it's not
23 in the public book, but it's in the
24 confidential section of your book.

25 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Okay. Have you

1 concluded your remarks?

2 MR. FORTUNO: That's it.

3 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Okay. Charles.

4 MR. JEFFRESS: I don't think I need
5 to add anything to that. We're working on that
6 and have by the first of October to resolve
7 that issue, and moved on with the
8 classification of consultants. Earlier this
9 year, the OIG--

10 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Let me just say, as
11 I understand it, are you going to be able to
12 distinguish between your independent
13 contractors and your temporary workers?

14 MR. JEFFRESS: Yes. The question is
15 at this point LSC seems to exercise sufficient
16 control over the independent contractors, and
17 there's a question as to whether they are
18 properly classified as independent contractors.
19 So the corporation is considering two choices,
20 one, to simply make them temporary employees
21 and moot the question, or changing the nature
22 of the control over the consultants so that
23 they are truly independent contractors.

24 We've had discussions on that. We're not
25 ready at this point to make a decision and put

1 it before you, but we will be doing that
2 shortly, and we will do something before the
3 beginning of the fiscal year.

4 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right. So
5 you're taking steps to comply with the opinions
6 that you have obtained.

7 MR. JEFFRESS: Absolutely, with the
8 outside counsel. As I said, we've had
9 conversations with them. I don't have anything
10 in writing, have asked for more information.
11 They're putting that together, and we'll go
12 back to them with more information. We'll have
13 another conversation with them so that we'll be
14 able, following that, before we have a final
15 decision.

16 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Do you want to add
17 anything to that, Vick?

18 MR. FORTUNO: No.

19 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Okay. Jeff?

20 MR. JEFFRESS: I had something,
21 though, on the IG - follow-up to the IG
22 Contracting Audit.

23 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right, go
24 ahead.

25 MR. JEFFRESS: The contracting audit

1 was conducted earlier this year, and the IG
2 issued their report July 7th. It speaks to two
3 issues. One is the same issue that the
4 consultant audit speaks - I mean the financial
5 audit speaks to, is whether they're independent
6 contractors or consultants. All right, and the
7 second is our failure to follow our own
8 internal procedures when we issue consultant
9 contracts.

10 Matt responded. Our response is to part
11 of the audit of the 13 recommendations. One
12 was enclosed. The other 12 are still
13 outstanding. The other 12 are all going to
14 turn on whether or not we determine these folks
15 to be independent consultants or whether we
16 determine them to be temporary employees. If
17 they're temporary employees, that's going to,
18 as I say, moot out a lot of these issues.

19 But the reason that the audit found so
20 many problems in the first place was that,
21 while LSC had been contracting with consultants
22 like this for 20 years to assist with program
23 visits, the administrative manual in 2005
24 dropped out the provision - the special
25 provision on how these consultants are

1 contracted with. And so our current
2 administrative manual did not have a provision
3 authorizing what our practice has been for the
4 past 20 years. So the audit was conducted
5 using our current manual against our current
6 practices, and we had failed to carry forward
7 into the current manual the provision of the
8 previous manual that governed how these
9 consultants are hired.

10 But because we're reviewing whether these
11 are consultants or independent contractors, we
12 don't want to just put the old provision back
13 in there. We want to, in fact, assess the
14 right way to do this and then revise our
15 procedures in accordance with the
16 recommendations of the IG.

17 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right, so you
18 will be back to us on that.

19 MR. JEFFRESS: We'll be back to you
20 on that.

21 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right. Just
22 refresh my--

23 MR. FORTUNO: I'm sorry. I was just
24 going to say there was one point of
25 clarification when you asked if there was

1 anything to add. I just wanted to be clear
2 that, with outside counsel, they've reviewed
3 and discussed with us what we've done in the
4 past up till now. What we, I guess, will be
5 discussing with them later is once whatever
6 adjustments are made at LSC, or are proposed to
7 be made at LSC, will be addressed by them so
8 that they can let us know whether they agree
9 that the - the arrangement we have at that
10 point poses no problems.

11 MR. JEFFRESS: We want to get their
12 advice and act on their advice, but we want to
13 get them a proposal to respond to.

14 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right. And I
15 presume that considering their advice, you will
16 draft your agreements, if you have independent
17 contractors, in such a way that will make it
18 very clear and confirm that you're not going to
19 run into this problem again. I have to be
20 refreshed on something. The revisions to the
21 manual that you're talking about, is that done
22 internally, or is that subject to Board
23 approval?

24 MR. JEFFRESS: The administrative
25 manual has not previously been approved by the

1 Board, when it was revised in 2005.

2 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: But you will keep
3 the Board informed as to this particular
4 change.

5 MR. JEFFRESS: Absolutely. This is a
6 requirement of financial lawyers that we
7 resolve this, and this is very much in the
8 interest of this Committee, so we will run this
9 by you for sure.

10 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Tom.

11 MR. MEITES: I understood most of
12 what the issues raised were, and I thought the
13 management response was in the right direction,
14 but let me tell you what I'm concerned about.
15 I don't know if you've all followed this, but
16 there's been a hullabaloo about appointments of
17 special monitors in federal prosecutions,
18 particularly the U. S. Attorney for New Jersey
19 has seemed to have a lot of friends. I'm very
20 concerned that LSC not be seen as awarding
21 consulting contracts to its friends.

22 Now, I understand that people who are
23 retained as consultants are knowledgeable
24 because they've done the work. On the other
25 hand, a lot of them are professionally and

1 personally close to the people at LSC.

2 Now, I thought that the competitive
3 awards provision is the most obvious safeguard.
4 I'm not sure how practical it is to put out for
5 bidding every episode where you need someone to
6 go to Nevada with you. But I think it's very
7 important that we find some way to select
8 consultants which is beyond reproach, even if
9 this person selected is someone who has had
10 experience. I would hope they do. But I want
11 to make sure that the selection process is
12 squeaky clean, because we've all learned how
13 eager the Washington Post and our other
14 journalistic friends are to look at issues like
15 that.

16 And I don't find that management response
17 is as clear on that as I would like. I
18 understand it's a difficult problem, because
19 management hires lots of consultants to do a
20 variety of jobs, and some, apparently, are
21 hired on fairly short notice. So I would like
22 management and the IG to work together if they
23 can on this and to figure out if this
24 competitive bidding process is going to work,
25 how it can be made better, but I do want report

1 back at our next meeting to get some assurance,
2 at least to feel some assurance, that we have a
3 procedure that not only can withstand public
4 scrutiny, but also is hiring the right people
5 as consultants.

6 I kind of think that the second part is
7 happening already, though I really don't know,
8 but I'm still concerned that what I've seen in
9 these papers does not set out for me a
10 procedure that I really can say I understand
11 and have confidence in and is practical to
12 work.

13 So I'd like - that's my one thing I would
14 like to follow up on is just the award of -
15 selection of an award of contracts to
16 consultants.

17 MR. JEFFRESS: If I could respond to
18 this briefly.

19 MR. MEITES: Sure.

20 MR. JEFFRESS: You're right. Our
21 response to the contracting audit was really a
22 response to each of the recommendations and not
23 a broader picture of what we do.

24 In terms of the consultants that
25 accompany OCE to do their program visits for

1 monitoring for compliance purposes, last year,
2 because we were expanding the number of visits,
3 we needed more consultants. What we did was to
4 advertise for people that were interested in
5 doing this work. We don't exactly have folks
6 compete, because we offer a set fee. It's \$400
7 a day. It's now gone to five. At that time it
8 was 400 and now gone to \$500 a day for the
9 work. So it's not like folks could put in bids
10 for doing it for--

11 MR. MEITES: I understand.

12 MR. JEFFRESS: -- more or less
13 amounts. But we did advertise for people
14 interested in it, had a meeting with those that
15 were, screened them, and then selected from
16 amongst those that responded the folks that we
17 thought would best - you know, would best be
18 able to assist us. So I think that is, while
19 it's not competitive bidding on a price
20 standpoint, it is one way of assuring that
21 there is some kind of selection process, that
22 it's not awarding friends. And I want to make
23 sure, like you do, that we have a process
24 that's--

25 MR. MEITES: Well, what might help

1 me, then, for our next meeting, if you or
2 someone gives a little something written about
3 it so we see the notices you put out, an idea
4 of how many people responded, just get an idea
5 if the system's working. And I also like the
6 IG's comments about whether they think the
7 system can be improved - the substantive system
8 of notifying and selecting consultants, because
9 I got to tell you, there's no bigger, easier
10 scandal than consultant Smith got 13 out of 13
11 bids.

12 MR. JEFFRESS: Right.

13 MR. SCHANZ: This is Jeff Schanz, the
14 Inspector General. Very clearly - and the
15 intent of our report is to say it in the
16 easiest sense, in the simplest sense - is we
17 need to see a document trail, and where key
18 decisions have been made, and how those key
19 decisions have been documented.

20 We're very sensitive to the flammability
21 of contracting issues. In fact, the entire
22 Inspector General community has a National
23 Procurement Fraud Task Force. So this is
24 endemic throughout the entire government, not
25 just the LSC.

1 And I agree with you wholeheartedly that
2 we should be squeaky clean in everything we do;
3 and we should be transparent, more importantly,
4 in the decision process - processes of the
5 contracts. That, I think, will go a long way,
6 and it's too soon for the IG to opine on that,
7 because we haven't seen the promised
8 corrections--

9 MR. MEITES: So the ball's in
10 Charles's court at this time.

11 MR. SCHANZ: Most certainly - well,
12 and we've adopted ownership of the corporate
13 auditor's footnote recommendation to classify
14 these people as either independent contractors
15 or temporary employees. So we need that
16 information before we can move forward on
17 closing some of the recommendations.
18 Secondarily, and just as important as the first
19 step, is to make sure that the processes that
20 are going to be put into place work.

21 MR. MEITES: I'm focused on the
22 second, to make sure that what both works and
23 is practical and also is what we need in terms
24 of both clarity and being beyond reproach. So,
25 Charles, why don't - I will assume that you

1 have the laboring order for our next meeting.

2 MR. JEFFRESS: I accept that. I
3 think I do as well. And I think your point is
4 well taken that in addition to just responding
5 to the recommendations in the contracting
6 audit, perhaps we should do something more
7 elaborate that describes the whole process for
8 screening and--

9 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Also the number of
10 people involved here on a normal basis, as I
11 understand it, isn't a big number involved.

12 MR. JEFFRESS: No. That's right.
13 We're talking about--

14 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Who you have
15 employed in the past and the special expertise
16 that they had to assist those conducting the
17 audit, and I guess the dollars involved would
18 be helpful for the Board to have the whole
19 picture.

20 MR. JEFFRESS: Right. These are
21 relatively small contracts, generally under
22 \$5,000.

23 MR. MEITES: We understand that. But
24 if you could put those numbers and information
25 together, I think that would help--

1 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Yeah. I think you
2 got the sense of the Committee of two.

3 MR. JEFFRESS: Okay.

4 MR. SCHANZ: I would like to advise
5 the Committee of two, and following up on Mr.
6 Meites's point, is that we have received an
7 awful lot of congressional interest in this
8 particular report, and there's going to be a, I
9 think, larger oversight, not just the Audit
10 Committee, but above and beyond, if there is
11 such a thing above and beyond an Audit
12 Committee, that congressional interest in this
13 process is very pronounced.

14 MR. MEITES: That's good news,
15 because if we have ideas and they have ideas,
16 let's get the best system we can.

17 MR. SCHANZ: I agree.

18 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right. Do we
19 have any further reports on this? Ron?

20 MR. MERRYMAN: Well, there's just a
21 couple of things I just want to make sure in
22 talking about this. You know, as Charles has
23 said, we're waiting for the documents, what has
24 changed, so we can do our assessment of the
25 action; but we also - I do think it's important

1 to mention that we do also have a concern that
2 since this discussion has been going on for a
3 number of years, and that there's a potential
4 for liability to the corporation that I think
5 should be recognized and should be looked at,
6 because it could be a significant amount of
7 money. It may not be, but it could be.

8 But someone needs to take a look and see
9 if we have done something in the past that's
10 against IRS rules, DC rules; what are we going
11 to be doing to correct that, to get that
12 costed, because it could be a very large
13 potential liability.

14 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: I can assure you
15 that a lot of effort is going to be put in that
16 area.

17 MR. JEFFRESS: And I can assure the
18 Committee that this has been part of our
19 conversation with our outside counsel, and we
20 have both a tax attorney and an employment
21 attorney involved in the question.

22 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: And between Tom and
23 I, we'll give it some additional--

24 MR. MERRYMAN: Okay. Expertise on
25 the Committee.

1 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: You know, when you
2 have a Committee of two, you can accomplish a
3 great deal.

4 MR. SCHANZ: We would welcome your
5 input, but we want to see the contract that you
6 have with the corporation first.

7 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Very well put. So
8 shall we move on to our next item on the
9 agenda? And that is the report on the
10 selection of the outside auditor for fiscal
11 2009. Jeff?

12 MR. SCHANZ: I'll defer to the
13 Assistant Inspector General for Audit, who
14 spoke a little bit sooner than this on the
15 record. I don't know if he identified himself,
16 but that's Dutch Merryman, and he has
17 information for you that's contained in the
18 Board book.

19 MR. MERRYMAN: There was some
20 information placed in the Board book that dealt
21 with a process for selecting the IPA from like
22 1992. It's not been the practice for the last
23 decade, essentially, but it was the only piece
24 of paper I could find.

25 MR. JEFFRESS: I'm glad we're not the

1 only ones whose practice may be different from
2 what's on paper.

3 MR. MERRYMAN: Well, we don't - we
4 cannot find anything in the minutes that did
5 away with this. We looked. But the practice
6 has been for the IG to make the selection
7 report to the Committee, with the Committee's
8 responsibilities of oversight of that process.
9 We now have a Committee to report to and update
10 and keep you informed what's going on.

11 I'll talk about the IPA selection process
12 real quick. We did send out an RFP, request
13 for proposal, and we received eight bids back
14 on that. Seven bids were qualified. One of
15 the bidders was more or less an individual who
16 was interested only in preparing the financial
17 statements to get them ready for an audit.

18 We had a team of three members who
19 independently evaluated first the technical
20 aspects against the criteria contained in the
21 RFP, and then collectively the individuals came
22 together to reach a consensus on each of the
23 bids as far as technical quality.

24 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Did the team
25 consist of any consultants?

1 MR. MERRYMAN: No, sir, just three
2 auditors. We had a lot of audit speak. And
3 not outside. We had it all internal. What we
4 did do with the - and that was 70 percent of
5 the consideration.

6 Thirty percent of the consideration was
7 cost. We had another individual, who was not
8 on the team, do a spreadsheet on the cost and
9 use - this individual used the name of fruits
10 as opposed to companies so we could review the
11 cost without - hopefully without influence of
12 whose bid it was. And we reached a consensus
13 on the cost figures, then we married the two
14 up.

15 And where we're at right now, we did
16 identify the three most highly qualified
17 candidates, and we have also agreed, reached
18 consensus, on selection and are waiting to have
19 this meeting before going ahead and starting
20 contracting with the candidate that we deem to
21 have the best both technical and cost proposal
22 combined for the corporation. So we're ready
23 to move out. I don't want to say names yet,
24 because we have not notified anybody.

25 MR. MEITES: And I have some things

1 I'd like to say, but I want you to complete the
2 selection process before I make any comments.

3 MR. MERRYMAN: Okay.

4 MR. MEITES: Whatever questions I
5 have, let's wait until you select the person,
6 then we'll ask questions.

7 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: I have some
8 questions, and if they're not appropriate, you
9 tell me. Of the three you said were most
10 qualified, were the range of fees about - was
11 it close?

12 MR. MERRYMAN: There was over - at
13 least 25 percent spread in fees.

14 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Between each of the
15 three.

16 MR. MERRYMAN: Between the three.
17 And there was a larger spread between the group
18 as a whole.

19 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Okay. And of the
20 three most qualified, you have decided to
21 select one unnamed.

22 MR. MERRYMAN: We've identified one.

23 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: And what stood out
24 as the reason why you picked that one of the
25 three?

1 MR. MERRYMAN: I don't know if I'm
2 allowed to say this or not, but I'll say it in
3 very general terms. From a technical
4 qualification--

5 MS. PERLE: I think we've lost them.

6 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Is somebody there?

7 MR. SCHANZ: Laurie, Matt, are you
8 still on line?

9 MR. JEFFRESS: Our green light has
10 gone out. We've lost the connection to the
11 conference center. Let me go get Kathleen,
12 because I don't know what the number is to call
13 back.

14 (THEREUPON, there was a conversation
15 in low tones between Chairman Garten and Mr.
16 Meites.)

17 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right. My
18 co-member suggests that I withdraw the
19 question, which I do.

20 MR. SCHANZ: Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: He's my counsel.

22 MR. SCHANZ: Okay. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Well, what's your
24 time table?

25 MR. MERRYMAN: Our time table is to

1 do reference checks, and I have that done, and
2 have the contract negotiated and awarded by the
3 31st is our goal.

4 MR. MEITES: Thirty-first.

5 MR. MERRYMAN: Thirty-first of July.

6 MR. MEITES: Very good. Herb, do you
7 want to say anything before he awards the
8 contract?

9 MR. SCHANZ: Laurie, Matt, are you
10 back on line?

11 (THEREUPON, there was a discussion in
12 low tones between Mr. Meites and Chairman
13 Garten.)

14 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: The contract that
15 you're entering into--

16 MR. MERRYMAN: Mm-hmm.

17 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: -- does it follow
18 the lines of the RFP, or what is it?

19 MR. MERRYMAN: It follows the lines
20 of the BRP, and what we used last time. I can
21 send the blind contract if you'd like to review
22 that.

23 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Well, did you
24 incorporate any of the changes I suggested?

25 MR. MERRYMAN: We did not incorporate

1 the time is of the essence, but the times are
2 spelled out very specifically in the contract,
3 but we can add that to the contract.

4 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: And what about the
5 other provision with regard to the additional--

6 MR. MERRYMAN: That is in the
7 contract. When I sent the e-mail, I misspoke.
8 It was in the contract as opposed to the RFP.

9 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: It is there.

10 MR. MERRYMAN: It is, and that's
11 where that wording came from, the revised RFP.

12 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right. But why
13 don't you send me the revised contract?

14 MR. MERRYMAN: I will. I'll send it
15 to you on Monday.

16 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: That's fine.
17 Anything? Dutch or Jeff, do you want to add
18 anything?

19 MR. MERRYMAN: I do want to just
20 recognize one thing, that we did make a revised
21 RFP after we put the current one out. For
22 future reference, we had a number of
23 recommendations from the Chairman. We thank
24 you for that, Mr. Garten.

25 And these recommendations - these

1 included expanding information about the Board
2 and the Board's role, about the Committee and
3 the Committee's role, including time is of the
4 essence clause in the contract - or in the RFP
5 so there's no doubt about the time frame. We
6 included a paragraph on - under extraordinary
7 circumstances for additional potential increase
8 in the price, if it was caused by us, but it
9 had to be approved by, you know, by the IG
10 before anything could go in.

11 We talked about the Audit Committee's
12 role in the oversight process, and again - I'll
13 say it again, the time is of the essence, we
14 did put a separate section in on that and
15 defined that to make sure everybody understood
16 that we need to have those dates confirmed.

17 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: And I want to thank
18 you for the cooperation you gave me, and you
19 did incorporate, I think, everything that I had
20 suggested, and I think we have a better
21 document for it.

22 MR. MERRYMAN: We're going to file
23 that. We have a contract file that we
24 maintain.

25 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Yeah. Did any of

1 the bidders object to any of the language?

2 MR. MERRYMAN: No. Well, we had
3 questions. We posted a question and answer
4 page. We had some questions, but no one
5 objected. We actually sent the proposal out to
6 23 different bidders from the GSA contract,
7 tried to get a variety of sized firms, and -
8 but we have no idea how many hit the website
9 and downloaded it.

10 But we were pleased that we had seven
11 qualified bids come in. It really made it a
12 good process to look at and analyze. We had -
13 you know, the people who applied, they were
14 good companies, good bids. And it was a
15 difficult decision, but we were able to get
16 through it, and we're ready to move forward.

17 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Good.

18 MR. MEITES: Just be sure when you
19 announce your decision you let Herb and I know
20 who you selected, send a brief bio or
21 something. Herb knows the firms. I don't.
22 But I'd like to--

23 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: I don't know who
24 they are.

25 MR. MEITES: Just something--

1 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Dutch, would you
2 send me and Tom the thing you published on the
3 questions and answers?

4 MR. MERRYMAN: Yes, sir.

5 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Okay. All right.
6 Have we got anything else?

7 MR. MEITES: I don't think so.

8 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: What should I call
9 you, vice chair, or what?

10 MR. MEITES: No, I'm just a humble
11 member, Herb.

12 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: All right. We're
13 at the point. Do we have any public comment
14 from anybody? Do we have people on the phone
15 again?

16 MR. MERRYMAN: It's off. The light's
17 off.

18 MR. SCHANZ: We lost connection. For
19 the record, initially we had Laurie Tarantowicz
20 and Matt Glover from the Inspector General's
21 Office, legal counsel, and they're not on the
22 line now.

23 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Do we have any
24 other comments? All right. Is there any other
25 business to be taken up by this Committee?

1 Hearing none, I'll assume there is not. I'll
2 take a motion to adjourn.

3 MR. MEITES: I move we adjourn.

4 CHAIRMAN GARTEN: Okay. I don't
5 think it needs a second, but I'll second it.

6 MR. MEITES: Thank you very much.

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