

**9592. RESOLUTION 07-15 (formerly 06-67) - ADOPTION OF THE DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY'S 2007 OPERATING BUDGET AND COMMITMENT TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF A REVISED TOLL SCHEDULE FOR THE DELAWARE MEMORIAL BRIDGE.**

WHEREAS, Section 505 of the Trust Agreement, dated October 1, 1993, requires that The Delaware River and Bay Authority (the "Authority") adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed operating expenses for FY2007, excluding the Airports division, are \$66,424,200; and

WHEREAS, the budget includes funds for salaries and wages of Authority personnel, and materials and services for Authority activities; and

WHEREAS, for FY2007, interest on outstanding bonds is currently approximately \$15,003,678, and amortization of principal will be \$7,340,000 for total debt service of approximately \$22,343,678; and

WHEREAS, the amount to be deposited to the credit of the Reserve Maintenance Fund with respect to Crossing Facilities shall be \$175,000 per month or \$2,100,000 for FY2007; and

WHEREAS, the projected revenue of the Authority for FY2007, excluding the Airports division, is approximately \$98,213,566 resulting in a debt service coverage of 1.43x, meeting the toll covenant; and

WHEREAS, the proposed operating budget for the Airports division operated by the Authority is \$5,094,133; and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee has conducted publicly advertised hearings and meetings on the proposed 2007 Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee has developed, reviewed, and approved the proposed 2007 Operating Budget and recommends its adoption to the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Authority's capital improvement needs through Fiscal Year 2009 are anticipated to be approximately \$100,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that future toll revenues based upon the present toll schedules will be insufficient to fulfill its obligations to operate, maintain, upgrade, and expand its facilities to provide safe and efficient transportation in and between the states of Delaware and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that to meet its future obligations through 2009, it must generate no less than \$11,000,000 each year in additional revenue derived from tolls at the Delaware Memorial Bridge; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby adopts an operating budget of \$66,424,200 for the Bridge, Ferry, Food Services, Three Forts Crossing, Police, and Administration Divisions, and a budget of \$5,094,133, for the Airports division operated by the Authority for a total of \$71,518,333 for FY2007, and authorizes the Executive Director to exercise the approved management discretion and spend within the approved FY2007 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that \$8 million of the General Fund Reserve is hereby designated and restricted for the Fiscal Year 2007 as the self insurance fund of the Authority to cover any payments required within the deductible limits of the Authority's various insurance policies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority shall conduct public hearings, workshops and community outreach in the states of Delaware and New Jersey on the proposed toll structure that provides sufficient funding to meet the future capital and operating needs of the Authority. The Commission shall adopt by resolution a revised toll structure that meets its future needs and is implemented by January of 2008.

A motion to approve Resolution 07-15 was made by Commissioner Simmerman, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and approved by a roll call vote of 11-0.