



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT



No. 4 — May 7, 2020

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Hon. Mark Docherty, Chair
Regina Coronation Park

Ms. Carla Beck
Regina Lakeview

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Meadow Lake

Mr. Everett Hindley
Swift Current

Hon. Paul Merriman
Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland

Ms. Cathy Sproule
Saskatoon Nutana

Mr. Randy Weekes
Biggar-Sask Valley

[Due to technical difficulties, the verbatim was not available from 10:01 a.m. to 10:17 a.m.]

The Chair: — Okay everyone. MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Cathy Sproule, Minister Jeremy Harrison have joined us. And it is now 10:17 a.m., and our technical difficulties are done for now. But welcome back.

So in terms of the agenda, we are on item no. 1. We have a number of decision items. So, lack of . . . I don't know if everybody has it, but on my order I've got 1(a) as, and I'll read the motion:

That the Board of Internal Economy authorize a special warrant in the amount of \$653,000, being three-twelfths of the 2020-2021 funding previously approved for vote 076, Advocate for Children and Youth, estimates; and,

That the said amount be recommended to the Minister of Finance by the Chair on behalf of the Board of Internal Economy in accordance with subsection 9.4(3) of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*.

Any discussion? Ms. Sproule.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I'm just looking at the background note that we were provided when these motions were presented to us last Friday, and there's only a couple comments I'd like to get on the record here.

And that is the very first statement, which says special warrant funding is required to fund the Legislative Assembly, I just wanted it to be noted that there is another option. It's not just special warrant, but that the legislature could be reconvened to pass an interim appropriation bill. And that's definitely an option that is not outlined in the background notes. So just one of the concerns we have.

And I don't know if the Clerk's available to speak to us right now, but if I understand correctly, there's a deadline here of May 11th for Finance to receive this request in order to properly allow the LAS [Legislative Assembly Service] and the officers to do their work and get the funding. So I understand that there's a deadline here that's critical and that to call the Assembly is not an option in this circumstance.

But as you know, we are getting three-twelfths of the proposed funding for this year. That takes us to August, end of August. So it would be for June, July, and August. I would anticipate that when we're called upon again in August to forward further funds for these agencies that there would be a discussion then, and proper time frames explored to actually look at convening the Assembly to do an interim appropriation, which would be I think a more appropriate way of proceeding than special warrant and would encourage members to consider that — and yourself — when we are looking at coming back after . . . Well it would have to be before the end of August. It would have to be probably in July or . . . giving Finance enough time to do what they need and the Assembly to do what they need.

So in this case, I don't know if you have . . . I don't really need the Clerk if he's not available, Sheila . . . [inaudible interjection]

. . . Yes. But I just wanted to get on the record why we are agreeing to a special warrant at this time, and it's mainly because of the time exigencies that we are dealing with in this particular circumstance.

And if I understand correctly from the Clerk, there was a number of days where Finance wasn't even able to provide an opinion on how this can go forward. So I know Finance is incredibly busy dealing with the emergency, the state of emergency we're in, but we now have three months to figure this out for the rest of the fiscal year, the other seven-twelfths, the other seven months.

Maybe the Clerk could confirm what I've just said, but other than that, that's something that I just wanted to have on the record before we proceed . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I think it's all right, Sheila.

The Chair: — We're going to go with the Polycom as the only option as far as talking to the Clerk.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, I think it's all right if everyone's okay with me quoting the Clerk, and if you want to hear it from the Clerk directly and get it on the record. But that was my conversation with the Clerk.

The Chair: — I think we're okay. That's how I understand it. I understand the same as Ms. Sproule.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I appreciate Ms. Sproule's comments, and we had a very good discussion earlier today. I appreciate the warrants going forward as proposed here today, and we're going to continue with discussions as we go forward.

The Chair: — Ms. Beck.

Ms. Beck: — Just to add to my colleague's comments and just to be clear on the record, we will be co-operative and voting in favour of these motions today. As Ms. Sproule noted, we don't want to stand in the way of the independent officers receiving their three-twelfths that they require to do the good work that they need to do over the next three months.

But the expectation we wanted to have on the record is that all options will be explored prior to the end of the three-twelfths. Our expectation would be that an interim appropriation bill would be explored and all of those options would be made known and available to this committee. And that would be our strong expectation.

The Chair: — Okay. Any other comments? All right. I've read the motion once; I don't think I need to read it again. Can I have someone move motion 1(a)? Mr. Hindley. Can I have a seconder please? Ms. Beck. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Let's move on to item 1(b). The motion reads as follows:

That the Board of Internal Economy authorize a special warrant in the amount of \$501,000, being three-twelfths of the 2020-2021 funding previously approved for vote 055,

Information and Privacy Commissioner, estimates; and

That the said amount be recommended to the Minister of Finance by the Chair on behalf of the Board of Internal Economy in accordance with subsection 43.4(3), *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Any discussion? Seeing none, can I have someone move that motion? Mr. Weekes. Can I have a seconder? Ms. Sproule. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Everybody agreed. Thank you.

Okay, item 1(c). The motion reads as follows:

That the Board of Internal Economy authorize a special warrant in the amount of \$146,000, being three-twelfths of the 2020-2021 funding previously approved for vote 057, Conflict of Interest Commissioner and Registrar of Lobbyists, estimates; and,

That the said amount be recommended to the Minister of Finance by the Chair on behalf of the Board of Internal Economy in accordance with subsection 24.5(3) of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*.

Any discussion? Seeing none, I need someone to move that motion. Minister Merriman. A seconder? Ms. Beck. Thank you.

Moving on to item 1(d). The motion reads as follows:

That the Board of Internal Economy authorize a special warrant in the amount of \$1,004,000, being three-twelfths of the 2020-21 funding previously approved for vote 056, Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner, estimates; and,

That the said amount be recommended to the Minister of Finance by the Chair on behalf of the Board of Internal Economy in accordance with subsection 9.4(3) of *The Ombudsman Act, 2012* and subsection 34.4(3) of *The Public Interest Disclosure Act*.

[10:30]

Any discussion? Can I have someone move that motion please? Mr. Weekes. Can I have someone second it? Ms. Sproule. All in favour? Carried.

Let's move on then to item 1(e). The motion reads as follows:

That the Board of Internal Economy authorize a special warrant in the amount of \$2,546,000, being three-twelfths of the 2020-2021 funding previously approved for vote 021, Legislative Assembly, estimates; and,

That the said amount be recommended to the Minister of Finance by the Chair on behalf of the Board of Internal Economy in accordance with subsection 69.3(3)(a) of *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007*.

Any discussion? Seeing none, I'm looking for someone to move that motion. Ms. Beck. Can I have a seconder please? Minister Harrison. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The board recessed for a period of time.]

[10:45]

The Chair: — All right. In your agenda, let's move on to item no. 2, which is the recruitment of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. And I have a motion here for us to move in camera:

That the Board of Internal Economy meet in camera and that the Human Resource Consultant of Human Resources, Tammy Gedak, of the Legislative Assembly Service be included in camera to assist the board during the interview process.

Can I have someone move that motion? Ms. Sproule. Seconder? Randy. All in favour? Carried. The board moves in camera at 10:45 a.m. Thank you all. We're in camera as of now.

[The board continued in camera from 10:45 until 13:59.]

The Chair: — All right, so the board has reconvened, out of camera. It is now 1:59 p.m. based on my clock here.

[14:00]

We have agenda item no. 2 with a motion. I will read the motion, and I'll look for a mover and a seconder on this motion. So the motion will read as follows:

That the board recommends to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan that Maurice Herauf, Q.C. be appointed to a five-year term as Conflict of Interest Commissioner and Registrar of Lobbyists, in accordance with section 18 and subsection 18(4) *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, and the terms and conditions contained in the Speaker's letter of offer.

Can I have someone to move that motion? Mr. Hindley. Seconder? Ms. Sproule. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Unanimous. All in favour.

That ends our business as the Board of Internal Economy for today. I have a motion to adjourn. Ms. Beck. Seconder? Mr. Weekes. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — This board stands adjourned until the call of the Chair. Thank you so much for your work today.

[The board adjourned at 14:01.]