



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

MINUTES AND VERBATIM REPORT

**Published under the authority of
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker**



No. 3 — December 14, 2006

**BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY
2006**

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Chair
Prince Albert Carlton

Hon. Glenn Hagel
Moose Jaw North

Ms. Donna Harpauer
Humboldt

Mr. Ron Harper
Regina Northeast

Ms. Judy Junor
Saskatoon Eastview

Hon. Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone

Mr. Don McMorris
Indian Head-Milestone

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Room 8 Legislative Building
Thursday, December 14, 2006

Present:**Members of the Board of Internal Economy**

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker, Chair
Hon. Glenn Hagel
Ms. Donna Harpauer
Mr. Ron Harper
Ms. Judy Junor
Hon. Warren McCall
Mr. Don McMorris

Staff to the Board

Marilyn Borowski, Director of Financial Services
Ms. Linda Kaminski, Director of Human Resource and Payroll Services
Gwenn Ronyk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Margaret Tulloch, Secretary to the Board

AGENDA

A discussion arising, the agenda was approved as amended.

MINUTES

Moved by Ms. Junor, seconded by Ms. Harpauer, that the Minutes for Meeting #2/06 be adopted.
Agreed.

ITEM 1**a. Table Item: Legislative Assembly 1st and 2nd Quarter Financial and Fiscal Forecast Reports**

The Chair tabled the reports.

Moved by Mr. Harper, seconded by Mr. McMorris:

That the 1st and 2nd quarter financial and fiscal forecast report for the 2006-2007 fiscal year be received and approved.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

Minute # 1654

ITEM 1 (cont'd)**Table Items:****b. Members' Accountability and Disclosure Reports for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2006**

The Chair tabled the reports.

c. Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Opinion, and Schedule of Fixed Assets for the Government and Opposition Caucuses for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2006.

The Chair tabled the reports.

ITEM 2**Table Item: Report of the Provincial Auditor – Memorandum of Audit Observations**

The Chair tabled the report.

ITEM 3

Decision Item: Adoption of Policy Guidelines for the Implementation of the Caucus Employee Severance Plan

Moved by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Mr. McMorris:

That clause (6) be amended by adding the words, "Subject to clause (6.1)," at the beginning of the second sentence in line 3 that reads, "Any portion of caucus funding..."; and

That clause (6.1) of Directive # 7.2 – *Caucus Resources* be deleted, and replaced with a new clause (6.1) as follows:

- (6.1) Where a caucus terminates the employment of a caucus employee without cause, the amount of money that is paid as severance to the employee shall be in accordance with guidelines approved by the Board of Internal Economy. The amount of money that is paid as severance shall be in addition to that caucus' annual grant amount that is determined pursuant to clause (3) and shall not be deducted from the amount of that caucus' annual grant.

That in accordance with clause (6.1) of Directive #7.2 – *Caucus Resources*, the guidelines for the calculation of severance payments for caucus employees, as attached, be approved.

**Board of Internal Economy Guidelines
Severance Payment Calculation for Caucus Employees**

In accordance with clause (6.1) of Directive #7.2 – *Caucus Resources*, which states:

Where a caucus terminates the employment of a caucus employee without cause, the amount of money that is paid as severance to the employee shall be in accordance with guidelines approved by the Board of Internal Economy. The amount of money that is paid as severance shall be in addition to that caucus' annual grant amount that is determined pursuant to clause (3) and shall not be deducted from the amount of that caucus' annual grant.

The following conditions apply to those payments:

Severance:

An employee's entitlement to severance is based on the advice of the respective Caucus Chair. The notice that severance shall be paid to a caucus employee shall be made in writing, under the signature of the Caucus Chair, and submitted to the Human Resource and Payroll Services branch of the Legislative Assembly Service.

The notice will contain the following information:

- Name of employee;
- Position of employee in the caucus;
- Date of commencement of employment with the caucus and information on dates of employment in other positions within the Public Service of Saskatchewan;
- Employee's current salary information.

Senior Staff Eligibility:

- Senior staff is interpreted as the caucus office Chief of Staff and Director level positions within the caucus office.
- Senior staff shall be eligible to severance of one (1) month of pay, at the rate in effect on the date of termination, for each year of service in the caucus office and within the public service of Saskatchewan to a maximum of twelve (12) months of pay.

Junior Staff Eligibility:

- Junior staff is interpreted as clerical staff, secretarial staff, research staff, communications, and all other staff who do not fall within the senior staff classification.
- Junior staff shall be eligible to one (1) month of pay, at the rate in effect on the date of termination, for each year of service in the caucus office and within the public service of Saskatchewan to a maximum of nine (9) months.

- In those cases where the caucus office has a collective bargaining agreement with a union, the amount for the years of service calculation for the severance payment for junior staff can fall within the provisions of the respective collective agreement. However, under no circumstances can the total amount exceed nine (9) months of pay.

Years of Service Calculation:

- Years of service will be based on the total number of months of employment in the caucus office and within the public service of Saskatchewan. Any portion of a month of service will be deemed to be one month of service.
- If an employee has received a previous severance amount from the caucus office, they can only receive either a nine month or twelve month lifetime maximum, as the case maybe. Under no circumstances can a second severance payment for previously recognized years of service be made.

Severance Amount and Payment:

- If a severed caucus employee commences employment with the executive government, a Crown Corporation, agency, board or commission during the severance period, this will impact the amount of the severance payment.
- A top-up in lieu of benefit plans will be added to the severance payment calculation. The amount of the top-up is tied to the rate used by PSC for out-of-scope public service employees.
- The severance payment will be paid out as a lump sum payment.
- A signed release of claim must be provided prior to a severance payment being processed.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to.

Minute # 1655

ITEM 4

Decision Item: Amendment to Directive #24 – Constituency Office Equipment and Furniture Provision

Moved by Ms. Junor, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

Effective April 1, 2006, that Directive #24 – *Constituency Office Equipment and Furniture Provision* be revoked, and that Directive #24.1 – *Constituency Office Equipment and Furniture Provision*, as attached, be approved.

DIRECTIVE #24.1
(s.49(3)(c), (d) - c.L-11.2)

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE PROVISION

- (1) APPLICATION - This directive governs the provision of equipment and furniture, technical computer support and certain relocation expenses on behalf of an MLA for his or her constituency office(s) by the Legislative Assembly.
- (2) DEFINITIONS - In this directive:
 - “equipment and furniture” means equipment and furniture, including computer hardware and software and a photocopier, required to furnish and operate a constituency office;
 - “MLA” means a Member of the Legislative Assembly;
 - “technical computer support” means remedial technical support that includes on site assistance, software and hardware troubleshooting and installation and removal of software and hardware, and the design and maintenance of MLA constituency websites;
 - “term” means the period commencing on polling day for a general election and ending on the day immediately preceding polling day for the next general election.
- (3) PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE AND TECHNICAL COMPUTER SUPPORT - The Legislative Assembly shall provide each MLA with equipment and furniture, and technical computer support for his or her constituency office. The Legislative Assembly shall acquire the equipment and furniture using best practice purchasing policies.

- (4) PROVISION FOR CONSTITUENCY OFFICE RELOCATION EXPENSES – Provided that best practice purchasing policies are followed, the Legislative Assembly shall pay the relocation expenses of an MLA who relocates his or her constituency office during the term.
- (5) MAXIMUM AMOUNT - The maximum amount that may be spent by an MLA each term is:
- (a) for photocopier rental, to a maximum monthly rental amount of \$200;
 - (b) at the direction of the MLA, for any of the expenses listed in clauses (3) and (4), to a maximum of \$10,000.
- (6) OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY - All equipment and furniture provided to an MLA pursuant to this directive is the property of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. An MLA may utilize that equipment and furniture in the manner the MLA considers appropriate to best exercise the MLA's duties. When an MLA ceases to be an MLA, the equipment and furniture may be dealt with by the Legislative Assembly in any manner that the Legislative Assembly considers appropriate.
- The Legislative Assembly shall maintain an inventory of all equipment and furniture covered by this directive.
- (7) BUDGET - The Legislative Assembly shall budget and pay for the expenses authorized by the directive.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to.

Minute # 1656

ITEM 6

Decision Item: Amendment to Directive #17.2 – Committee Indemnity and Expenses and Directive #19 – Board of Internal Economy Indemnity and Expenses

Moved by Mr. McMorris, seconded by Mr. Harper:

1. That clause (1) of Directive #17.2 – *Committee Indemnity and Expenses* be amended by striking out “clause (5)” and substituting “clauses (5) and (5.1)”; and that

The following clause be added after clause (5):

“(5.1) Notwithstanding clause (1), a Member of the Executive Council who serves on a committee appointed by a motion of the Legislative Assembly or pursuant to the Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly, is entitled to be reimbursed for travel and living expenses for each day the Member attends a meeting of the committee as a committee member, or attends to the business of the committee that is authorized by the committee when:

- (a) the Legislative Assembly is not sitting; or
- (b) the Legislative Assembly is sitting but the business of the committee occurs outside of Regina.”

2. That clause (1) of Directive # 19 – *Board of Internal Economy Indemnity and Expenses* be amended by striking out “clause (5)” and substituting “clauses (5) and (5.1)”; and that

The following clause be added after clause (5):

“(5.1) Notwithstanding clause (1), a Member of the Executive Council who serves on the Board of Internal Economy is entitled to be reimbursed for travel and living expenses incurred by the Member for each day that the Member of the Board is attending to the business of the Board when:

- (a) the Legislative Assembly is not sitting; or
- (b) the Legislative Assembly is sitting but the business of the committee occurs outside of Regina.”

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to.

Minute # 1657

The Board met in camera for a short time.

The Board resumed public meeting.

ITEM 7

Decision Item: Recruitment for Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Moved by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Mr. McMorris:

That Gregory Putz of Regina, Saskatchewan be appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan effective January 1, 2007.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute # 1658

ITEM 5

Decision Item: Amendment to Directive #21-- Annual Indemnity and Allowances

Moved by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

Effective on the polling date of the next general election, that the salary for the Speaker of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly be set at the same level as that of a Minister, and that Directive #21 – *Annual Indemnity and Allowances* be amended accordingly.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

Minute # 1659

ITEM 8

Information Item: Funding for Legislative Committees

Information was presented to the Board by Deputy Clerk Gregory Putz.

ITEM 9

Decision Item: Funding Request for 4th Floor Renovations: Development of a Second Committee Room in the Legislative Building -- 2006/07 and 2007/08 Fiscal Years

Moved by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

That the Board of Internal Economy approve \$160,000 in the current fiscal year (2006/07) to contract with Saskatchewan Property Management for the design, tendering and start-up costs to initiate construction of committee facilities in the fourth floor of the Legislative Building,

And that Special Warrant funding be approved in the amount of \$160,000 for this purpose.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to.

Minute # 1660

ITEM 10

Decision Item: Constituency Assistant Maternity/Adoption Leave Supplement

Moved by Ms. Harpauer, seconded by Mr. McCall:

That effective December 14, 2006 a maternity/adoption leave supplement to EI benefit (SUB) program be implemented for constituency assistants under Directive #6.1 – *Constituency Assistant Benefits*, and

That the provisions of the (SUB) program be the same as the Legislative Assembly Service maternity/adoption leave supplement to EI Benefit (SUB) program.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute # 1661

The Board adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Chair

Margaret Tulloch
Secretary

[The board met at 16:00.]

The Chair: — First of all I want to welcome everybody to this meeting today and want to put on the record that we have in attendance the Hon. Glenn Hagel, Ms. Donna Harpauer, Mr. Ron Harper, Ms. Judy Junor, Hon. Warren McCall, Mr. Don McMorris. We have the Speaker here, Myron Kowalsky. We have with us also Clerk Gwenn Ronyk, Deputy Clerk Greg Putz, Marilyn Borowski from financial services, Linda Kaminski from HR [human resources], also Shannon Ferguson, and Margaret Tulloch, secretary to the board.

Committee members, I want to draw to your attention first of all to the draft of the agenda. I want to first of all thank you for your patience in terms of getting the material and then reacting to it, and sending back suggestions, even to the latest moment. But we kept getting new items added. And if we can deal with all of them today, it would be good. If we can't, well we might have to postpone it and get another meeting, but I'm hoping we can today. My plan would be that we go till about 5, 5:30. We have lunch here. We might be able to just grab lunch on the go as well and then finish up after lunch.

The items before you, I wanted to just bring to your attention now. I would like to move item 5 and deal with that after item 7 on your agenda.

An Hon. Member: — Five will go between seven and eight?

The Chair: — Will go between seven and eight. And then we'll add item 11, call it other, and in case there are items that arrive or brought in later on in the meeting. And then item 12 will simply be notice of next meeting, February 12, 9:00 a.m.

The first thing we need to do is approval of the agenda. Are we agreed on the agenda?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed, thank you. Then the first item is to take a look at the minutes of meeting 2/06. This item is found right after item 10, after tab 10. And minutes for 2/06, pause for a minute in case anybody might have some questions or comments about the minutes. And if there aren't any questions or comments, I would ask for a mover and a seconder to approve the minutes.

Ms. Judy Junor moved and seconded by Donna Harpauer minutes be adopted as presented. Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Anybody contrary? Motion is carried.

Tabling of items, we have before you item no. 1(a), the first quarter report from the Legislative Assembly budget and also the second quarter report. I bring to your attention for the second quarter the budgetary expenses were \$54,000 under budget. The statutory expenditures were \$151,000 under budget.

If there's any comments or questions, I'd ask you to direct them

to Marilyn at this time. If there aren't, what I would like is a motion that these two reports be received and approved.

Mr. Harper: — I so move.

The Chair: — Okay, Mr. Harper and Mr. McMorris. Are we agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — The motion is carried.

Table item (b) which are the members' accountability and disclosure reports for the fiscal year ending March 31, these have been previously tabled in the House, and all we need to do at this time is table them with the committee unless there are maybe questions or comments on them. And I hereby have them tabled with the committee as required. No questions or comments?

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Do we need a motion to receive them?

The Chair: — I don't think it's necessary for that. Thank you very much.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Very well, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair: — The item 1(c) table item, the audited financial statements, the auditor's opinion, and schedule of fixed assets for the government and opposition caucuses for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006. And that you have in your folders as well. And that's simply to be tabled.

Then we proceed to item 2 unless there's comments or questions. Item 2, tabling the *Report of the Provincial Auditor*, as I table this report, I would like to bring to members' attention a couple of items from it. First of all on page 5, if you can find it, Provincial Auditor's report.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — We don't have that.

The Chair: — Apparently they don't have it.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — I've got an item 2 folder but . . .

The Chair: — You've got a big blank for item 2? Well we'll get that run off and bring it back to you. I'll proceed to item 3, and then we'll come back to that one. I'll come back to it once everybody has it.

So we will proceed to item 3. This is adoption of policy guidelines for the implementation of the caucus employee severance plan. It's a decision item.

This item, I want to mention that it's an item which would provide severance payments for caucus employees. The Board of the Internal Economy had approved an amendment with respect to this, that there should be such a thing. And we need, at this stage, to put a directive to make that effective and also to adopt the guidelines for how this would be paid out.

The work on this has been largely done by the chiefs of staff of

the respective caucuses, working in conjunction with Linda Kaminski and Marilyn Borowski. And as I said, once again the policy has been adopted, and we're looking at a directive which requires a motion. And the motion would read as the recommendation is before you with the additions of the words "and" between items 1 and 2 and another word "and" between items 2 and 3.

Do you have that motion? Item 3. Do members need further clarification on this of any sort? The Chair recognizes. . . Did you put the "ands" in there? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . They're in there? Okay. Okay. The Chair recognizes Mr. Hagel.

Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Chair, let me move, seconded by Don McMorris:

That clause (6) be amended by adding the words "subject to clause (6.1)," at the beginning of the second sentence in line 3 that reads "any portion of caucus funding";

And:

That clause (6.1) of directive #7.2 - caucus resources be deleted and replaced with a new clause (6.1) as follows:

(6.1) Where a caucus terminates the employment of a caucus employee without cause, the amount of money that is paid as severance to the employee shall be in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Board of Internal Economy. The amount of money that is paid as severance shall be in addition to that caucus' annual grant amount that is determined pursuant to clause (3) and shall not be deducted from the amount of that caucus' annual grant.

And then concluding:

That in accordance with clause (6.1) of directive #7.2 - caucus resources, the guidelines for the calculation of severance payments for caucus employees as attached be approved.

The Chair: — Members have that attachment as well. So any discussion on the motion by Mr. Hagel and Mr. McMorris? If not, is the committee accepting that motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed? Motion is carried.

Proceeding then to item 4, decision item, amendment to directive 24, constituency office equipment and furniture provision, these provisions are designed to set up a system of payment for expenses incurred if a member is forced to relocate his or her office. And along with this is also some changes and directives which were necessary, or deemed necessary because the old directives in some cases were outdated. Things like use of the phrase SPMC [Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation] were there.

From now on, the equipment is considered to be owned by the Legislative Assembly, not executive government. So therefore the furniture and equipment will be the property of the

Legislative Assembly. They're the ones, Legislative Assembly is the people that keep the inventory.

SPM [Saskatchewan Property Management] still works in co-operation with the Legislative Assembly. They will store this equipment quite often and have facilities for moving it. And then of course, equipment goes, sometimes if it's not reused, reassigned will go into a surplus pool.

And I'm going to ask Marilyn to just give some other information with respect to the changes here.

Ms. Borowski: — Okay, in point 2 I've sort of outlined some of the changes. Plus the old directive is attached. One of the major ones that we've done with this is to clarify that the property is owned by the Legislative Assembly as opposed to the Crown in the right of Saskatchewan. I also took out references to Legislative Assembly Office, which doesn't exist as a result of the latest amendments to the Act. We also put in rather than . . . The old directive used . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh sorry, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2005.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Yes, you said you took out references to Legislative Assembly Office.

Ms. Borowski: — Yes.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — And it's now . . .

Ms. Borowski: — It's now Legislative Assembly Service.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Service?

Ms. Borowski: — It doesn't exist as office any more in the Act. We also chose to change the reference to SPMC which required everything in this directive to kind of be purchased through SPM and well, SPMC which of course doesn't exist either; it's now SPM. But we realize that the policies being used by SPM are best practice purchasing policies. So we felt if we just refer to best practice purchasing policies, it would allow us a bit more flexibility for the members in purchasing through this directive.

They will be, for the most part, policies that SPMC uses because that is best practice purchasing. But there may be some cases where an SPM policy doesn't quite fit for what a member might need to do. For example, we've now added relocation costs. I'm not quite sure what the SPM policy would be on that. We also now have the provision of technical support. So we've kind of modernized the directive by taking out SPM, but referring to best practice purchasing policies.

And lastly, the previous directive required that it be reviewed after an election. And we had been doing that, but it really had become sort of an obsolete clause because the board can review the directive at any point. And actually to review it right after an election is sometimes difficult because the board doesn't necessarily meet quickly, and meanwhile members do want to start using directive 24 funds. So we've kind of . . .

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — So you kind of had a hiatus on directive 24, I guess, for a period of time. Is that what happened?

Ms. Borowski: — Well I think we did allow members to purchase, but the board review happened sometime later. So had the board wanted to change anything, it had probably already . . .

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — So this is just making clear until it changes it's the same then?

Ms. Borowski: — Yes. And because there were a number of changes, I have just renamed the directive, directive #24.1, and it basically incorporates all these changes.

The Chair: — Yes, I think the business about reviewing by the board was set in as a safety valve when this was first presented, when this directive 24 first came in. And we wanted to make sure the board reviewed it to get the practice, but now we've got it into a routine.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — I can . . . [inaudible] . . . Mr. Speaker, because we were afraid that the Legislative Assembly Office was going to run amok, and now that we've eliminated the Legislative Assembly Office we don't have to worry any more.

The Chair: — That's right. Okay. There is a recommendation attached here and I have . . . Does anybody want to deal with it? The Chair recognizes Ms. Junor.

Ms. Junor: — Do you want me to read the motion?

The Chair: — Oh yes, please read it into the record.

Ms. Junor: — I move, seconded by Donna Harpauer:

That effective April 1, 2006, that directive #24, constituency office and furniture provision be revoked, and that directive #24.1, constituency office equipment and furniture provision, as attached, be approved.

The Chair: — On the motion moved by Judy Junor, seconded by Donna Harpauer, is the committee agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Anybody dissenting? The motion is carried. Proceed then to item 6. Have we got the materials for 2? Okay, if everybody's got 2 then let's do that. Thank you.

Item 2 is we're tabling the report of the Provincial Auditor. I wanted to bring to the attention of the board, starting on page 5, some of the audit conclusions and findings. I'm very pleased to report that, the top two bullets, that the auditor says that in his opinion:

The Board had adequate rules and procedures to safeguard public resources except where we report otherwise in this memorandum.

And second bullet:

The Board complied with the authorities governing its activities relating to financial reporting, safeguarding public resources, revenue raising, spending, borrowing, and investing

I also want to bring to the attention of the board that the auditor has some suggestions which he's been raising with us for several years. Starting on page 6:

We continue to recommend that the Board of Internal Economy:

set and approve its operational goals and objectives

set performance targets and measures

monitor its progress . . . [and then]

define and document the operational reports . . .

And also on page 7:

We continue to recommend that the Board:

prepare [that the board prepare] an annual report on its performance

[and] provide the report to the Legislative Assembly.

In my discussion with the auditor, I wanted to get advice as how we could move in this particular direction. When he looked at the objectives that we had listed in the previous year's budget item — and we have listed in there some general objectives applying to the entire board's operations, and we also listed by department some objectives, very specific objectives — and when he looked at that he said, really what would be needed would be approval of those items.

We never had time to really do that in the past, and so what I really want to do is just give notice to the board that at our February 12 meeting, I want to put that on the agenda so that we are able to approve that so we can make some progress in meeting the requirements for the auditor.

And that really is what I wanted to say on this at this time, and I thank you. Yes, Mr. Hagel.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would concur. I think that would be good business practice and sounds as though, in essence, the work has been done. We haven't formalized it, and it would be sensible I think for us to formalize it. It would bring the Legislative Assembly Services in line with what's really become common practice in executive government.

The Chair: — We have done a lot of the work; we haven't done all of the work. But we are, I think we will be prepared to bring in something so we can comply with at least partial requirements.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Let's make progress.

The Chair: — Make progress, yes. Thank you. Item 2, any other comments or questions?

Then we proceed to item 6. Our practices regarding membership on standing committees of the legislature has changed considerably since we've adopted the policy field committees, and we now have cabinet ministers who regularly

sit on these committees. It used to be a rare occasion when cabinet ministers sat on committees. And the purpose of this item is to provide for cabinet members to receive payment for expenses incurred while they are sitting on these committees. And there's a recommendation attached along with this.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — And does this apply to subcommittees of legislative committees as well?

The Chair: — I do believe so, yes.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Okay. That's all there is to it then.

The Chair: — The Chair recognizes Mr. McMorris. Seconded . . . Okay, would you like to read it into the record then please.

Mr. McMorris: — Sure:

That clause 1 of directive #17.2 — committee indemnity and expense be amended by striking out “clause 5” and substituting “clause 5 and clause 5.1”; and that

The following clause be added after clause 5:

5.1 Notwithstanding clause 1, a member of the Executive Council who serves on a committee appointed by a motion of the Legislative Assembly or pursuant to the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly* is entitled to be reimbursed the travel and living expenses for each day the member attends a meeting of the committee as a committee member or attends to the business of the committee that is authorized by the committee when:

- (a) the Legislative Assembly is not sitting; or
- (b) the Legislative Assembly is sitting but the business of the committee occurs outside of Regina.

2. That clause 1 of directive #19 — Board of Internal Economy indemnity and expenses be amended by striking out “clause 5” and substituting “clause 5 and clause 5.1”; and that the following clause be added after clause 5:

5.1 Notwithstanding clause 1, a member of the Executive Council who serves on the Board of Internal Economy is entitled to be reimbursed for travel and living expenses incurred by the member for each day that the member of the board is attending to the business of the board when:

- (a) the Legislative Assembly is not sitting; or
- (b) the Legislative Assembly is sitting but the business of the board occurs outside of Regina.

The Chair: — On the motion by Mr. McMorris, seconded by Mr. Harper, is there any comment or questions? Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Any dissenting? None. The motion is carried.

We have arrived then for item 7, which is a decision item —

recruitment of Clerk of the Assembly. I'd like us to deal with this, being a personnel matter, to deal with this in camera. A motion to go in camera?

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — I so move.

The Chair: — Moved by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Mr. McMorris. Those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Motion is carried. We will go into camera.

[The board continued in camera.]

The Chair: — The committee will come to order again please. We are on item 7, proceed to decision item with respect to recruitment of Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. The Chair recognizes Mr. Hagel.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Chair, I would like to move a motion, seconded by Mr. McMorris:

That Gregory Putz of Regina, Saskatchewan be appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan effective January 1, 2007.

The Chair: — Motion by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Mr. McMorris. Any comments? Mr. Hagel.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Chair, I think, in moving this, I move it as an expression of confidence in Mr. Putz as a person that has been preparing for some time, is well prepared to move to assume the duties at the Table, both in the context of legislative function as well as administrative function. It is with recognition that he's been at our Table for nearly two decades and in the process of renewal that we've gone through over the last number of years, has been a very active adviser and consultant in that process, and is in a position to understand the will of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the democratic process. Also his experience has been sound in the administrative arm of the operation, and that's an important element as well as he becomes the administrative head of the Legislative Assembly.

And so with, I believe, the confidence of the both sides of the House and all the members, I think that we have the right person for the job who is at the table now, and should just slide over one chair. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I think that would be a most appropriate direction for us to take.

The Chair: — The Chair recognizes Mr. McMorris.

Mr. McMorris: — Yes, I would agree with those comments as well as mentioning, you know, all the work that Mr. Putz has done over the last year or two or three on the rule changes and being so familiar with those as they're coming into force, and we're going through those changes now. So, yes, I would like to comment and agree with Mr. Hagel on the appointment of Mr. Putz.

The Chair: — Are there any further comments? On the motion moved by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Mr. McMorris:

That Gregory Putz of Regina, Saskatchewan be appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan effective January 1, 2007.

Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Any dissenting. The motion is carried unanimously. Congratulations, Mr. Putz.

The next item is item 5, the decision item amendment to directive 21. Is there a decision on this? The Chair recognizes Mr. Hagel.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Chair, I will move that:

Effective the polling date of the next general election that the salary for the Speaker of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly be set at the same level as that of a minister and that directive no. 21, annual indemnity and allowances, be amended accordingly.

Seconded by Ms. Harpauer.

The Chair: — On the motion moved by Mr. Hagel and Ms. Harpauer, is the committee ready for the question?

An Hon. Member: — Question.

The Chair: — Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — The motion is carried. Proceed to item 8, which we had as a decision item, we're changing that now basically to an information item. And this is regarding the funding for committees. You have a little bit of information presented here, and I'm going to ask Greg to just give us a brief outline of what's involved here.

Mr. Putz: — Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The committee item is a result of the recent activity during the fall period of the legislative session and the decisions made in the House for the referral of certain pieces of legislation to the standing committees, the policy field committees. We know that we'll have at least one Bill having a rather full public hearing program, that being The Status of the Artist Act. And there are a couple other pieces of legislation that will receive some hearings. I think Bill 20, the stab and gunshot wound Bill will, it's our understanding, will be the subject of some hearings and perhaps meetings away from the city of Regina. And there are some other pieces of legislation that both the Intergovernmental Affairs and Economy committee wish to have some hearings of some fashion.

So the funds that are necessary for the conduct of those hearings include funds for advertising, the hiring of a researcher — which it's my understanding that the committees have met and decided that they will share a researcher, to a limited degree anyways unless we see otherwise — and also for the costs of the extra transcription for *Hansard*. So Iris Lang, who is

responsible for our committees sector of the Legislative Assembly Service, had put together a budget that reflected all of those costs based on the legislation that had been referred to the standing committees.

And we have found through various savings in other parts of the Assembly that we can basically absorb all of those costs. But we wanted to put that forward to the members as an information item so that the board would be aware of those ongoing costs.

Part of the reason that we're able to cover some of those that . . . you will recall when we went forward with the committee budget at last year's meeting in February, there was a motion to add a limited amount of funding to the budget in anticipation that there would possibly be some hearings on legislation. And that has come to pass, and the balance of that then, of course, as I said, has been covered off by some savings in some other areas of the Legislative Assembly.

So unless there's some questions, that's basically a description of the information item.

The Chair: — So we just wanted to advise that there's some good management going on inside, and we're able to not ask you for any money on it at this time. Mr. Hagel.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — I just wanted to confirm that if the budget requires additional funds in order to support the works of the committee, then that's not an automatic adjustment in the budget occurs, but it must be approved by motion of the board?

Mr. Putz: — That's correct.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Yes, okay. Good. And we're clearly of the view at this point in time that our estimate will not require . . .

The Chair: — Based on the total spending of \$100,000, right?

Mr. Putz: — Yes.

The Chair: — If we go over 100,000 between . . .

Mr. Putz: — That's our estimate, with the understanding that a lot of the plans of the committees have not been fully developed. The committees haven't had a chance to decide in any detail what they're going to do. This is based on conversations with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of those committees. I know Mr. Harper and Ms. Junor in particular have met to determine in general what they want to do, and I guess we'll just see as we go along whether the funding that we're anticipating is sufficient.

But Mr. Hagel is right that once the allocation of funds that the board had given the committee sector at the budget last year is exhausted, we'd have to come and ask for some more. It's not sufficient.

The Chair: — From the Chair, yes. I recognize Ms. Junor.

Ms. Junor: — I think my question is part of what Mr. Hagel has asked, because I think it was 53,000 that was in the budget last time.

Mr. Putz: — Yes.

Ms. Junor: — And so this 100,000 is on top of that? Or does that include that?

Mr. Putz: — No, that includes that.

Ms. Junor: — Thanks. That's all I wanted to know.

The Chair: — Thank you. So we'll proceed to the next item and that being item 9, funding request for fourth floor renovations. Once again I'll ask Greg to just give us a brief overview on this.

Mr. Putz: — Well this isn't a new item for the board; it's been around since 2002. So the item that we've brought forward today is based somewhat on the modernization program that was adopted by the House for a parliamentary calendar.

And in the report to the House, the House Services Committee felt that by compartmentalizing the legislative session into two components and with the idea that the legislation would be introduced in the fall period and with the chance then for the committees to work in the winter, that would further our committee system that was adopted in 2003 and facilitate it maturing even more. So it would be moving that process forward.

And as the committee system matures, along with it comes an increased need for a second committee room that has the facilities for public hearings and for television and retiring the Chamber, so to speak, as our second committee room, which was always thought to be a stopgap measure. So this is bringing forward that proposal that has been before the board before. But the reason it's coming forward at this time is because we've had a few more years experience with our committee system. The committees are now starting to have more hearings on Bills and anticipation of the committees becoming even more active in the future and needing a second facility to accommodate the committee meetings.

So the decision item before you has updated the cost estimates that the board has looked at in the past. We've consulted with SPM. They hired Dominion Bridge to update their cost estimates for making the fourth floor usable space in the Legislative Building. And essentially what that involves is some major construction to bring the elevator up to that floor and to extend the staircase to meet all the requirements under the fire regulations. The proposal also updates the original cost estimate for broadcast equipment for that facility as well and that part of the budget actually has gone down a little bit over what it was when you saw this a couple of years ago.

The construction costs though unfortunately have gone up, but I think that's just a reflection of the conditions in the province right now for demand on the trades, and the costs generally have gone up for most construction projects.

In order to initiate this project and costing it out, we gave you a proposal that the board approve funding in this fiscal year for \$160,000 which would permit SPM to prepare all of the necessary drawings — the architectural drawings, the wiring drawings — in anticipation of going to tender and allowing the

different companies to bid on the project. So in order to complete the project in the next fiscal year, their advice to us was that we should ask for funding to initiate that process now, and that would begin in early January so that they could then, if the rest of the funding is provided in the new fiscal year, then commence with the actual construction project.

So in a nutshell that's what the decision item reflects, kind of a two-part process in doing this. Requesting some funds now for the design and start-up costs and then the second part is the major funding for the project for the construction aspects and acquiring the broadcast equipment to make the committee room the same as this committee room with full capabilities.

The Chair: — Now I would like to add to that that if this motion is approved by the board — the motion for 160,000 or any other sum — we would be asking as well for a special warrant, a motion be passed for us to apply for a special warrant as this was not budgeted for in any way. The Chair recognizes Mr. Hagel.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Greg, when looking at page 4 of the item before us, the figures here, I recognize that what's being recommended is the 160,000 for three things: design, tendering, and start-up. And that's made in the context of assuming that it would be the Legislative Assembly which would fund the total project. If the project is delivered through SPM budget which, under the current total plans as I understand them, seems to me to be the more appropriate way of budgeting the actual work itself, would we need at this point in time to facilitate that just the figure of the design services in the amount of 140,372, or would it require the 160,000 that's recommended for design, tendering, and start-up? What's the more appropriate number, or is there something in between?

Mr. Putz: — We were advised by SPM that the appropriate number is the \$160,000, and I don't know how they arrived at that number, but it includes the design portion here. And the number 140,000 is what they had quoted us through their review of the project and updating the cost. There is some other start-up costs. I'm not aware . . . We had Al Hansen here with us, but he had to leave. He could probably have more fully explained that, but our advice from SPM is that to initiate the project now they'll need \$160,000.

And to address the other point that you made that . . . You will recall that originally when this came to the board, SPM was a partner, and they were going to appropriate the construction costs. And if SPM can get that money in their project, then this project will look more like what it did in 2002 when it first came before the board. But if that does happen, I just want to qualify that by saying that the broadcast component of this is something that we'd likely or we would come back to the . . .

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Right.

Mr. Putz: — Board with at the February meeting in the context of our overall budget, asking for the board to fund that portion of it.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Okay. Well, Mr. Chairman, do you want me to move a motion and then speak to it?

The Chair: — Yes please.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Okay. Let me then move a motion, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

That the Board of Internal Economy approve \$160,000 in the current fiscal year 2006-07 to contract with Saskatchewan Property Management for the design, tendering the start-up cost to initiate construction of committee facilities in the fourth floor of the Legislative Building, and that special warrant funding be approved in the amount of \$160,000 for this purpose.

And I'd be happy to speak to it.

The Chair: — Yes. I recognize Mr. Hagel.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — It would be my view, Mr. Speaker, that first of all we want to affirm that in the interests of the good functioning of the Legislative Assembly and in light of recent changes that have been made to modernize the function of the legislature, we clearly want to affirm that we consider it appropriate that we move forward in the creation of a second committee room which would serve our purposes similar to the room that we're in right now — point number one.

Point number two, I think it is most appropriate that we designate funds to do the necessary planning to move forward and clearly signalling the importance of it to the board as representative of the members of the Assembly.

Point number three, it would be my view that, in the context of what I understand are going to be upcoming requirements to attend to some of the structural matters related to the building itself, that it would be the wisest course of action for the project — for this particular project — to be included as part of a larger project to address the needs of the building to serve its purposes of its function.

And what I would want to see happen is that we would come back for our budget deliberations for the '07-08 fiscal year with a budget proposal that is developed by working in concert with property management, Saskatchewan Property Management with the end that the construction work itself would be done and within the budget of Property Management that the traditional elements of support that have been the responsibility of Legislative Assembly — things like the sound system, the communications, perhaps furnishings if that's appropriate given previous practice — but that that be developed and that what we would see then coming to this board is the recommendation from administration that addresses only that portion of the expected cost in the next fiscal year for the development of the new committee room with the working together with Property Management to have appropriately assigned in their budget deliberations and proposals the actual construction work and that part of it.

So it's clearly with that in mind that I move the motion. If it is more appropriate after consideration that, for example, tendering and start-up are more appropriate to be Property Management costs, then I would expect that that be the case. But if it's these funds as approved here that would facilitate what otherwise might not happen, then certainly it's with the

concurrence that that would occur.

So that's the thinking that I have in mind in bringing the motion to the board and so that (a) it signals that we want to move ahead; (b) we're prepared to look at the appropriate Legislative Assembly budgetary responsibility; and (c) that we see the responsibility for the bigger part of the construction and renovation costs more appropriate to Property Management.

The Chair: — Any other comments on the motion? Then if not, on the motion moved by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Ms. Harpauer, which involves a sum of 160,000 allotted for the purpose of proceeding with the construction design of the new committee room and also the special warrant, is the committee ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — The motion is carried. Nobody dissenting.

We move on then. We've covered item 9 and 11 with one motion. Item 9 and 10, pardon me.

Item 11 under other, I'd like to at this time open the floor for a discussion with respect to providing equity to the constituency assistants. Right now the situation is such that there is a maternal leave plan for people working within the Public Service and within the Legislative Assembly Service, but there is not for the constituency assistants. So the Chair would recognize Ms. Harpauer.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. It just recently came to our attention that the constituency assistants did not have the same benefits that other public servants do. So for the sake of fairness, we felt that they should be entitled to those very same benefits.

The Speaker: — Do you have a motion to that respect.

Ms. Harpauer: — Yes, I do. So I will move:

That effective December 14, 2006, a maternity/adoption leave supplement to EI [employment insurance] benefits (SUB) [supplemental unemployment benefits] program be implemented for constituency assistants under directive #6.1, the constituency assistants benefits; and that the provisions of the (SUB) program be the same as the Legislative Assembly Service maternity/adoption leave supplement to EI benefit (SUB) program.

The Chair: — Is there a seconder?

Ms. Harpauer: — Seconded by Mr. McCall.

The Chair: — Mr. McCall. Seconded by Mr. McCall. Is there any comments on the motion proposed by Ms. Harpauer and Mr. McCall? If not, is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Motion is carried. Item no. 12, I'd just advise members that a meeting has been scheduled for February 12, 9 a.m. in this very room. And I know that members have really had to juggle their schedules to get this particular date, so I hope we're all able to gather again at that time.

Is there anybody have any final comments? Mr. Hagel.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Chairman, members of the board, Merry Christmas. And of course the staff of the Legislative Assembly Services.

The Chair: — Well, and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish the members of the board a very, very Merry Christmas and a good holiday. You can get started tomorrow if you want. And thank you very much for the efficient way in which you expedited the whole series of decisions here today. Meeting stands adjourned.

[The board adjourned at 18:17.]

