



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT

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The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



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BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Hon. Don Toth, Chair
Moosomin

Mr. Dan D'Autremont
Cannington

Ms. Doreen Eagles
Estevan

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Meadow Lake

Hon. Don Morgan
Saskatoon Southeast

Mr. Len Taylor
The Battlefords

Mr. Kevin Yates
Regina Dewdney

[The board met at 13:10.]

The Chair: — I believe that we have quorum, so I will call our meeting to order. First item of business on the agenda is the approval of the proposed agenda. And if I could have a motion. Mr. D'Autremont. And a seconder. Mr. Yates. Any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed that we accept the agenda as presented?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Second item before the committee is the approval of the minutes from meeting no. 4 for the year '10. Could I have a motion to accept the minutes as presented?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I so move.

The Chair: — The motion is moved by Minister Morgan. Do we have a seconder? Mr. Yates. Any questions regarding the moving of the . . .

Seeing no questions, are the members in agreement that we accept the minutes, approve the minutes as presented? Thank you very much.

Two items. First of all, just to remind the members that the Assembly Services Mid-Year Report on Progress, November 2010 will be as tabled. And we also need a motion to approve. And I have a mover to approve the Report on Progress of the Legislative Assembly. Minister Harrison. And do we have a seconder? Mr. Yates. Any questions regarding the report? Seeing none, are we in agreement that the report be accepted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Special Warrant Request for Conflict of Interest Commissioner

The Chair: — Thank you. The second item for discussion is the special warrant request for the Conflict of Interest Commissioner due to unforeseen expenditures. We have our Conflict of Interest Commissioner with us today, Mr. Barclay. And I would give him the floor.

Mr. Barclay: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proposing that the board allocate a further \$50,000 to pay the remaining legal fees for MacPherson, Leslie and Tyerman, which represents the balance of their account. As most of you were probably aware, I retained the firm, and in particular Mr. Maurice Laprairie, to represent me in the LeClerc inquiry.

As you're all aware, I was requested by the legislature in May to conduct an inquiry and provide an opinion on the conduct of the member with regard to the transcripts and the phone recordings which were provided to CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation]. I also conducted a second inquiry in respect to a complaint by Judy Junor of the opposition that Mr. LeClerc had used his constituency assistants and office to further his private business interests.

We prepared two reports, and I'm sure that you're all familiar with my findings. They were filed with the Speaker in

November. My understanding that the reports have been very well received, both in the province and people have contacted me nationally.

And there turned out to be a lot more work involved in these inquiries than we had initially anticipated. The first allegation involved some rather serious allegations of criminal wrongdoing. And in fairness to Mr. LeClerc, his position was that these audios had all been doctored. We were fortunate and were able to have the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] become involved, and we had probably the leading expert in Ottawa dealing with the audio. And I think probably we saved the province 100 to \$150,000 because they spent months on it and really did an amazing and lengthy report.

But all this was very time consuming to the firm. They had to redo all the information that was retrieved. And in respect to the Junor report, they issued a subpoena on the Clerk, and he produced box and box and box of documents that they had to go through. And included in this \$50,000 is quite a number of disbursements. The firm was requested to produce the 200 copies of the report rather than being done through the government and also court reporting expenses. So I think we're talking maybe 5 or \$6,000 that were disbursements. And the firm also had written off about \$50,000 worth of legal expenses. So I'm a view that the . . . it's an unusual expense, but I think in this case it's warranted.

My own budget next year is going to be very modest. It will be less than \$150,000, and that includes my salary. Because I am attached to the Ombudsman's office physically, I have no expenses for secretary and a very modest expense for office and my salary. So all in all I think it's reasonable.

And I think this \$50,000 . . . I'm quite proud of the report. I think the firm did a lot of work, and it's received — it's a tragic case — but it's received, I think, accolades from people outside the government. That's basically what I'm asking for, is the extra \$50,000. Does anybody have any questions?

The Chair: — Do members have any questions of Mr. Barclay regarding his request for additional funds?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I'll make the motion to authorize the funds.

The Chair: — It has been moved by Minister Morgan, seconded by Mr. Yates:

That for the 2010 fiscal year special warrant funding be approved for vote 057, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, \$50,000.

Any further questions? Seeing none . . .

Mr. Barclay: — This is also over a six-month period too.

The Chair: — Thank you very much to Mr. Barclay. Seeing no questions, is the committee in agreement with the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Thank you, Mr. Barclay, for your work. Thank you for taking the time to coming and just explaining the purposes and reasons for your request.

And seeing no further business before the committee, can I have a motion of adjournment? The member from Estevan. The committee stands adjourned. Thank you very much.

[The board adjourned at 13:23.]