



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT

**Published under the authority of
The Honourable Dan D'Autremont
Speaker**



No. 6 — December 14, 2011

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Hon. Dan D’Autremont, Chair
Cannington

Ms. Doreen Eagles
Estevan

Mr. David Forbes
Saskatoon Centre

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Meadow Lake

Mr. Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

Hon. Don Morgan
Saskatoon Southeast

Ms. Christine Tell
Regina Wascana Plains

[The board met at 09:00.]

The Chair: — Okay. I'd like to call this meeting to order for Board of Internal Economy, December 14th, 2011. This will be our sixth meeting in 2011.

I wonder if I could get approval of the proposed agenda, if somebody would move that. Moved by Mr. Morgan. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Okay. We also have minutes of the meeting of August 30th, meeting no. 5. If we could have someone move adoption of those minutes.

Mr. McCall: — So moved.

The Chair: — Okay. Mr. McCall. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I need seconders for these? Okay. A seconder for Mr. Morgan's motion to approve the agenda? Mr. Forbes. And for the approval of the minutes, seconding Mr. McCall, who would move secondment? Mr. McCall made the motion. Mr. Morgan.

Okay. First item on the agenda is the tabling and decision items of the Legislative Assembly Service second quarterly financial and fiscal forecast report. Are there any questions? Go ahead, Mr. Harrison.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I guess I would just ask Greg whether Finance is aware of these pressures. They are?

Mr. Putz: — The answer to your question is yes. It's part of our normal reporting to the Ministry of Finance. These quarterly reports are filed with them and according to the Act, then filed also with the board for your review and approval.

The Chair: — Any other questions related to the financial and fiscal report, second quarter? If there are no questions, would somebody move that we accept the second quarterly report for the financial and fiscal forecast report of the Legislative Assembly? Mr. Harrison. Secunder? Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Okay. Item no. 2 is a tabling and decision item: approval of the Legislative Assembly's 2011-2012 mid-year report on progress. Everybody should have this report. Are there any questions related to the mid-year report for the Legislative Assembly Service? If not, would somebody move we accept and table the report? Moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. McCall. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Okay. Item no. 3 is the audit letter from the Provincial Auditor. Any discussion? Mr. Morgan.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I notice on page 3 that there is a recommendation that was not implemented and that the auditor continues to make. It's one that had been carried over from the . . . It's the first one that's on it, which is the recommendation to enter into agreement with PSC [Public Service Commission] for personnel and payroll processing.

Mr. Putz: — Mr. Morgan, yes, that is one that the auditor reported in a previous year. We are working on that currently, and we will comply with that. It's our intention. It is something that we intend to do, and we'll be working on that on due course.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — So our minutes can fairly reflect that the recommendation is accepted, and there's a commitment that it will happen.

Mr. Putz: — When that recommendation was in the auditor's letter in a previous year, the board did formally review that and the Speaker did respond to the auditor saying that we would comply. And what's in this letter is just an update. They are not, they did not renew that because they were satisfied with our response that we intend to comply.

The only new one they have in this letter is the recommendation that the Legislative Assembly Service create an administrative manual which . . . The letter's just being tabled now, and we'll have a formal response likely at the next board meeting or the subsequent board meeting. It's usually in the spring that the board responds through the Speaker to the auditor.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I'm fine with that . . . [inaudible] . . . but I was concerned with was that the holdover from the previous one. But if the intention is to comply in a relatively timely manner, then that's certainly acceptable.

Mr. Putz: — We would have complied this year, but as you know that we are going through a bit of a reorganization in the areas that are responsible for this. So once we're through that reorganization, we tend to get on with complying with that recommendation.

The Chair: — Okay. Any other questions? If not, could we have a motion to accept the audited letter from the Provincial Auditor? Ms. Eagles. Secunder, Mr. McCall. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Item no. 4 is the tabling of MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] accountability and disclosure reports ending the fiscal year of March 31, 2011; the New Democratic Party caucus audited financial statement ending March 31st, 2011; and the Saskatchewan Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ending March 31st, 2011. Is there any discussion? If not, could I have a mover to accept and table those reports? Mr. McCall. Seconded by Ms. Tell. All in favour? Carried.

Okay. The remainder of the items that we have on the agenda we should move in camera for initial discussions. If I could have a motion to move in camera and that we retain the staff for answering questions.

Ms. Tell: — I'll move.

The Chair: — Moved by Ms. Tell. Second? Seconded by Mr. McCall. All in favour? Randy, are you on the committee?

Mr. Weekes: — No . . . [inaudible].

The Chair: — Okay, you're out . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . That's right.

[The board continued in camera from 09:10 until 10:13.]

The Chair: — I'd like to reconvene the meeting of the Board of Internal Economy. We have a number of decision items that we must go through, the first being the decision item on the Chief Electoral Officer. We have a motion to bring forward in relationship to the recruitment of said Chief Electoral Officer. Could I have a motion, please? Mr. Harrison.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that:

A national open competition be conducted by the Board of Internal Economy for the recruitment of a Chief Electoral Officer as follows:

- a) that the board approve the request for \$35,000 for a national open competition; and
- b) that a subcommittee of the board be chaired by the Speaker and consisting of a government member, Mr. Harrison; of an opposition member of the board, Mr. Forbes; be established as a selection panel for the competition; and
- c) that the Legislative Assembly Service provide human resource assistance to the selection panel for the competition; and
- d) that the subcommittee may identify a member of the public with senior leadership experience to provide assistance to the selection panel; and
- e) that the recruitment process for the position be concluded so that the Legislative Assembly is able to consider the appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer by April 1st, 2012 if practicable.

I so move.

The Chair: — Moved by Mr. Harrison. Will you take the motion as read? Do we have a seconder? Ms. Tell. Discussion? All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[10:15]

The Chair: — Carried.

Decision item no. 6, discussion on the centennial projects. I believe we have a number of motions related to centennial projects. Could we have a mover for approval of spending \$115,000 for the procurement of new carpet and necessary changes to accommodate desk placement? Ms. Tell. It has been moved by Ms. Tell:

That the Board of Internal Economy approve \$115,000 in the 2011-12 fiscal year to procure new carpet for the Chamber and make the necessary system changes to accommodate the additional desks.

The Chair: — Seconder? Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Okay. The next decision item related to centennial projects is the approval of \$90,000 for the design and preparation work for the fourth floor committee rooms. Do we have someone to move that? Ms. Eagles. Seconded by Mr. McCall.

Okay. Motion by Ms. Eagles, seconded by Mr. McCall:

That the Board of Internal Economy approve up to \$90,000 in the 2011-12 fiscal year for the first of a two-stage plan for the construction of committee facilities on the fourth floor of the Legislative Building.

All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Okay. Item no. 7, decision item on the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice order of reference from the Assembly. We're looking for a motion of approval for the request of \$120,000 for the committee to carry out its functions. Moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. McCall.

Okay. Moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. McCall:

That the board approve the request for \$120,000 for the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Okay. Decision item no. 8, the establishment of a subcommittee to review the directives of the Board of Internal Economy. Looking for a member to move the establishment of the subcommittee. Mr. Harrison. Seconded by Mr. McCall.

Moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. McCall:

That the Board of Internal Economy establish a subcommittee to do a comprehensive review of Board of

Internal Economy directives; subcommittee membership to be comprised of the Speaker; a government member, Mr. Harrison; and an opposition member, Mr. McCall.

All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

That comprises the business of the Board of Internal Economy today. Could I have a motion of adjournment, please. Ms. Tell. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Thank you very much.

[The board adjourned at 10:20.]