



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT



No. 2 — February 14, 2014

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Hon. Dan D'Autremont, Chair
Cannington

Hon. June Draude
Kelvington-Wadena

Ms. Doreen Eagles
Estevan

Mr. David Forbes
Saskatoon Centre

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Meadow Lake

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Martensville

Mr. Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

[The board met at 08:25.]

The Chair: — Okay, welcome to the meeting for February 14th for the Board of Internal Economy. With us here today we have the Hon. Jeremy Harrison, the Hon. Nancy Heppner, the Hon. June Draude, Mr. Warren McCall, and Mr. David Forbes. As well we have a number of staff people from the Legislative Assembly Service.

Before us we have the agenda. I believe every member has a copy of that. We have one change to make on the agenda under other business. I wish to table a response at that time from the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Boda. So that will be item no. 7.

If someone would move that we adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Harrison. Seconder, Mr. McCall. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Okay, we have a number of items to discuss under LAS [Legislative Assembly Service], so these may impact on personnel. So if someone would move that we go in camera and including . . . oh, minutes first. I'm rushing ahead.

Okay. We also have a copy of the minutes from the meeting no. 1/14. Would someone move that . . . Any questions on the minutes? If not, would someone move the adoption of the minutes as presented? Mr. McCall. Seconder? Mr. Harrison. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Okay before we move into item 1, as I mentioned earlier, this will deal with the budgets of the LAS and there will be personnel matters perhaps in there. If someone would move that we go in camera? Mr. Harrison. Seconder? Mr. McCall. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. This committee now moves in camera.

[The board continued in camera from 08:29 until 10:23.]

The Chair: — Okay. We will reconvene the Board of Internal Economy meeting. The time is 10:23. Joining us is the member for Estevan, Ms. Doreen Eagles. So welcome, Doreen.

Okay, the first item of business is item no. 1, the budget for the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. And the motion before us is:

That the 2014-15 expenditure estimates for the vote 057, Conflict of Interest Commissioner be approved in the amount of \$150,135 as follows: budgetary to be voted, \$150,135; and further, that such estimates be forwarded to the Minister of Finance by the Chair.

Would someone move that motion? Moved by Mr. Harrison. Seconder? Mr. McCall. Any discussion? All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. As Ms. Sterling pointed out to me yesterday, I need to take enough time for her to do the paperwork. Okay, item no. 1(b), the estimates for vote 057, the office of the lobbyist registrar and the establishment of the lobbyist registrar. I believe Mr. Harrison has something he wishes to say on this.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Yes, sure. Thanks, Mr. Speaker. We've had some discussions on this and discussions between the parties as well. The bill that would be enabling the office of the lobbyist registrar is currently before the House. If the committee were to . . . or the board were to allocate funding, it would be I think anticipating the House, anticipating what members are going to do with respect to that bill. So I would propose that we defer consideration of the request until the bill is passed by members in the Assembly or however members choose to dispose of that bill.

We'll be very . . . Looking at government members and I think all members of the board will be very willing to examine this request once that bill is passed in a supplemental form, and I guess we would look forward to those presentations once the bill has been dealt with in the Assembly.

The Chair: — Any other discussion? If not, then I take it that this item is to be held.

Okay, item no. 2, and this is the expenditure of estimates for vote no. 056, the Ombudsman. And the motion reads:

That the 2014-15 expenditure estimates for vote 056, Ombudsman be approved in the amount of 3,400,000 as follows: budgetary to be voted, 3,178,000; statutory, 232,000; and further, that such estimates be forwarded to the Minister of Finance by the Chair.

Would someone move that motion please? Ms. Heppner. Seconder? Mr. Forbes. Any further discussion? All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Okay, item no. 3, the estimates for the Office of the Advocate for Children and Youth. The motion reads:

That the 2014-15 expenditure estimates for vote no. 076, Office of the Advocate for Children and Youth be approved in the amount of 2,513,000 as follows: budgetary to be voted, 2,291,000; statutory, 222,000; and further, that such estimates be forwarded to the Minister of Finance by the Chair.

Someone move that motion please. Ms. Draude. Seconder? Mr. McCall. Any discussion? Any further discussion? If not, all in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[10:30]

Okay, item no. 4, expenditure estimates for vote 034, the Chief Electoral Officer. The motion will read:

That the 2014-15 expenditure estimates for vote 034, Chief Electoral Officer be approved in the amount of 4,605,000 as follows: statutory, 4,605,000; and further, that such estimates be forwarded to the Minister of Finance by the Chair.

Someone move that motion please. Mr. Harrison. Seconder? Mr. McCall. Any discussion?

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Yes, I know I'm going to be moving a supplementary motion to this one as well, which is with respect to the supplementary budget or supplemental letter that we got from the Chief Electoral Officer. But we can dispose of this first before I speak to that then.

The Chair: — No further discussion? All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Okay. Further discussion? Mr. Harrison.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Sure. Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I would move:

That the Chief Electoral Officer is directed to work with Central Services to develop office space.

And the motion is in relation to the letter we received from the Chief Electoral Officer in relation to the move that he's currently undertaking, which this board authorized, to the new office location. We would ask that he work with the Ministry of Central Services to make that move as efficient and cost-effective as possible for the taxpayers of the province.

And we would ask as well, Mr. Chair, if we could arrange for a presentation from the Chief Electoral Officer in relation to that move once we're back in session, at an appropriate opportunity, and also a presentation from the Ministry of Central Services to make sure that we're having the most effective and efficient move that we could have. So I would make that motion.

The Chair: — Mr. Harrison has moved a motion:

That the Chief Electoral Officer be directed to work with Central Services to develop office space.

Seconder? Mr. McCall. Any further discussion? If not, all in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Okay, item no. 5 relates to the expenditure estimates for vote no. 055, the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The motion reads:

That the 2014-15 expenditure estimates for vote 055, Information and Privacy Commissioner be approved in the amount of \$1,147,000 as follows: budgetary to be voted, \$1,147,000; and further, that such estimates be forwarded to the Minister of Finance by the Chair.

Someone move that motion please. Ms. Eagles. Seconder? Mr. Forbes. I recognize for discussion Mr. Harrison.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We realize that there was a request from the office, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, for additional FTEs [full-time equivalent] and resources to make those a reality. We are very open to looking at additional resources for the commissioner.

As you know though, Mr. Speaker, we're in the process right now of hiring a brand new commissioner. Mr. Dickson, who had served with distinction for the past decade, obviously has come to the end of his term. And we're in the process of reviewing resumés and soon interviewing candidates. Mr. Forbes and I will be doing that. And we're looking . . . We're very open to looking at additional resources, but we want to have the new commissioner in place to make sure that whatever is requested is going to be a reflection of what they feel is appropriate for their office and don't want to prejudice or preclude any recommendations that they might have. So that's the basis of the motion, and we look forward to the process of hiring a new person.

In addition to the comments I just put on the record, we look forward to hearing from the new commissioner within three months with respect to what their recommendations are going to be in terms of resources and vision for the office.

The Chair: — Okay. Mr. Forbes.

Mr. Forbes: — Yes, and I just want to say I appreciate those comments. And we look forward to having the new commissioner in place and then having that person do the scan and coming back. And so we'll be looking forward to meeting within three months of that appointment. Thank you.

The Chair: — Okay. Thank you very much. On item no. 5, all in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Do we need to rescind that other motion or just make an amendment . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay. We have an error in item no. 3. The statutory number should have read 232 not 222. So if someone would move to make that change. Ms. Draude. Seconder?

Mr. McCall: — I second that motion.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Okay, so the total number would read 2,523,000 . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . \$10,000.

Okay, the total . . . The motion would then read:

That the 2014-15 expenditure estimates for vote 076, Office of the Advocate for Children and Youth be approved in the amount of 2,523,000 as follows: budgetary to be voted, 2,291,000; statutory, 232,000; and further, that such estimates be forwarded to the Minister of Finance.

So, Ms. Draude, you're still moving that. Mr. McCall, you're still seconding it. All in favour of the new totals?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Items no. 6(a) and (b), the expenditure estimates for vote 021, Legislative Assembly. The motion would read:

That the 2014-15 expenditure estimates for vote 021, Legislative Assembly be approved in the amount of 27,352,000 as follows: budgetary to be voted, 9,571,000; statutory, 17,781,000; and further, that such estimates be forwarded to the Minister of Finance by the Chair.

Would someone move that motion please? Mr. Harrison. Second? Mr. Forbes. Any discussion? If not, all in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Okay, item no. 6(c), revenue estimates for vote 021 for the Legislative Assembly. The motion would read:

That the 2014-15 revenue estimates for vote 021, Legislative Assembly be approved in the amount of \$4,200 as follows: revenue to be voted, \$4,200; and further, that such estimates be forwarded to the Minister of Finance by the Chair.

Would someone move that motion? Ms. Heppner. Second? Mr. McCall. Any discussion? Okay, all in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Okay. And we have one last item which was under other business, and that was the letter of response from the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Boda, that has been distributed to the members. So I would table that document.

[10:45]

The Chair: — Okay. We have one more item, item 6(a), and this is the estimates for the refurbishment and assessment replacement fund. And the motion would read:

That the amount of 250,000 be approved for refurbishment and assessment replacement fund as follows: (1) the de-acidification of Saskatchewan government publications, 108,000; (2) digital restoration of magnetic audio and video records of Legislative Assembly proceedings, 125,000; (3) new desk locks for the legislative Chamber, 12,000; (4) restoration of pre-Legislative Building artifacts, Chamber desk, 5,000, for a total of 250,000.

Would someone move that motion please? Mr. Harrison. Second, Mr. McCall. Any discussion?

Mr. McCall: — And what might the acronym be for this funding, Mr. Speaker?

The Chair: — R-a-f. R-a-r-f. All in favour please?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that is our agenda for today. If someone would move that the board now adjourn. Ms. Heppner. Second, Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. This committee stands adjourned at 10:48.

[The board adjourned at 10:48.]