



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT



No. 9 — October 23, 2014

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Hon. Dan D'Autremont, Chair
Cannington

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Saskatoon Silver Springs

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 08:01.]

The Chair: — Okay, I'd like to welcome everyone to this Board of Internal Economy meeting for October 23rd. Present we have the Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff, the Hon. Jeremy Harrison, MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], Doreen Eagles, and the Hon. Nancy Heppner. For the opposition, we have MLA Warren McCall and MLA David Forbes.

First item of business is the approval of the proposed agenda. Would someone move that we accept the agenda as presented?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Cheveldayoff. Second, Mr. McCall. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. The second item of business is the approval of the minutes from meeting 08/14 that's in your package. Do you have any questions related to those minutes? If not, would someone propose the adoption of those minutes? Mr. McCall. Second, Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I would like to table some items this morning with the board. Table the audit letter for the Board of Internal Economy for the Legislative Assembly dated October the 10th, 2014. Second, item no. 2, table items MLA accountability and disclosure reports for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2014: the New Democratic Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ending March 31st, 2014; table the Saskatchewan Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ending March 31st, 2014.

Move on to item no. 3, tabling and decision item, approval of Elections Saskatchewan's quarterly report for the period of July 1st, 2014 to September the 3rd, 2014. I have a motion:

That the quarterly report for Elections Saskatchewan for the period July 1st, 2014 to September 30th, 2014 be accepted.

Would someone move that?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — I so shall move.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Item no. 4, discussion and decision item regarding the Lobbyist Registrar. We have with us today Mr. Barclay, the Lobbyist Registrar, to present his request. Mr. Barclay.

Mr. Barclay: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the board. After this matter was scheduled we were involved in the tragedy yesterday. And I know you have far

more important matters to deal with than the lobbyist issues, so I'll be very, very brief.

The first item is payment of a moving allowance to the Deputy Registrar. And our selection committee has met and we have two finalists, and both excellent candidates, both women. And after the appropriate reference checks are made, we will make the decision. And I think that'll be probably in the next week or two.

But they're both from out of the province, so we'll need a budgetary item for moving allowance. Dawn Court has suggested, and with her experience, a maximum sum of \$25,000. And of course the candidate would have to provide expenses, but that would be the ceiling. I think there's a precedent for when Mary McFadyen was hired as the Ombudsman. She had an allowance, I think, of \$30,000, and this position is not as high as hers. So I thought that figure is reasonable.

The other issue is, back on the 23rd of June my salary increase was approved — that's in respect to my new duties as the Lobbyist Registrar — and it was to be effective on November the 1st. I met with the board on the 23rd of June, and then there is a directive on August the 19th. I'm still involved, as you know, in this RM [rural municipality] inquiry involving the RM of Sherwood, and we had to have a delay because of late harvest. We're right in the middle of hearing evidence right now, and we hope to be finished by the end of November. My mandate from the minister is to deliver a report by the end of December.

So I think as a matter of abundant precaution, I would prefer not to have a salary increase until the first of January. So I'm saving you money again. Those are the two items.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Barclay. Are there any questions related . . . Mr. Harrison.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Yes, just in terms of the salary approval that's being deferred, what's the value of that?

Mr. Barclay: — I have the transcript from the August 19th, and at the present time I'm receiving a salary of 60 per cent of the average salary of . . . it was deputy minister 2. And I think that's all been changed for all the independent officers to be the average salary of the deputy ministers. The increase is to 90 per cent, and my feeling is that it should only be for a year. I think hopefully that we'll have everything in place by that time, and that was the experience with my colleagues in two other provinces that were in the same situation that I was. They found they were very busy for the first year until it was set up, and that was the reason for the increase.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Yes, well we very much appreciate your frugality in this regard.

Mr. Barclay: — It's my Scottish heritage, I think.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — We do very much appreciate that. Would there be an opportunity for a reallocation of the funds that were allocated under that process for the move? Is that a

possibility?

Mr. Barclay: — I think in my budget . . . We'll have to ask . . . where's Dawn? About \$6,000, Mr. Harrison.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — All right. Well I mean I think I'm fine with providing resources for the Deputy Registrar to move to Saskatchewan. I guess what I would ask is that we perhaps would provide approval to pay the actual cost of the move.

Mr. Barclay: — Oh exactly.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Yes and that . . .

Mr. Barclay: — That was my idea, but to a maximum of 25.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Okay, and any additional would be . . .

Mr. Barclay: — But if it's 15,000, then that's all that would be paid.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — And then the 10 would be returned. Okay. I guess that would be something I'd be comfortable with.

The Chair: — Okay. No other questions?

Mr. Barclay: — Thank you very much.

The Chair: — Okay, the motion before the board is:

That the additional funding in the amount of 25,000 be approved for vote 057, Conflict of Interest Commissioner/Lobbyist, for the 2014-15 fiscal year; and

That the said amount be transmitted by the Chair to the Minister of Finance for approval by supplementary estimate by November the 1st, 2014.

Would someone move that motion? Mr. Harrison?

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Do we want to clarify in the motion, Mr. Speaker, that the approval is for up to \$25,000?

The Chair: — Okay. How about this:

That additional funding in the amount of up to \$25,000, based on actual expenses, be approved for vote 057, Conflict of Interest Commissioner/Lobbyist, for the 2014-15 fiscal year; and

That the said amount be transmitted by the Chair to the Minister of Finance for approval as a supplementary estimate by November the 1st, 2014.

Are you agreeable to move?

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — So moved.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Okay. Second motion related to the salary of the

commissioner. The proposed amendment is:

That clause (2) of directive 30, salary of the Lobbyist Registrar, be struck out and the following substituted:

(2) The Conflict of Interest Commissioner performs the duty of the Lobbyist Registrar and shall be paid a salary equal to 30 per cent of the average of all deputy ministers and acting deputy ministers.

Do we have a mover for that motion, please? Mr. Harrison. Second? Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Mr. Barclay: — Mr. Chairman, on just one matter, just to clarify the motion. It's my fault; I should have brought it to your attention. There's really . . . The increase too also affects the 60 per cent of my salary. Right now it's at the average of a deputy minister 2. And with that resolution that was passed in June and the directive in August, it changed it to the average of the deputy minister's . . . So that would have . . .

The Chair: — Yes.

Mr. Barclay: — Thanks.

The Chair: — We have a third motion:

That directive 30, Salary of the Lobbyist Registrar, come into force on January 1, 2015.

Is there someone to move that motion? Ms. Eagles. Second? Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Okay we have, under other business, there's one other item I would like to discuss, and that is some security issues. I would like to go in camera, if we can, for that and still retain the Clerk's office here for assistance. So would someone move that we move in camera and allowing the Clerk's office to remain. Ms. Heppner. Second? Mr. McCall. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The board continued in camera from 08:15 until 08:26.]

The Chair: — This committee is reconvened. Would someone move that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. Okay this committee is reconvened. Can someone move that we adjourn? Mr. Cheveldayoff. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. This committee stands adjourned.

[The board adjourned at 08:27.]