

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

MINUTE NO. 20

Wednesday, June 1, 1983 at 7:30 a.m.

1. PRESENT: Mr. Shillington in the Chair, and members Embury, Folk, Glauser, Katzman, and Young

Officials Present:

Provincial Auditor's Office:

W. Lutz, Provincial Auditor

J. Hunt, Deputy Provincial Auditor

G. Erickson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Comptroller's Office:

G. Kraus, Comptroller

2. Public Hearing: Department of Urban Affairs

Witnesses:

D.M. Innes, Deputy Minister

D. Bennett, Director of Administrative Services

Laura Joorisity, Accountant

D. Harazny, Acting Director of Property Tax Rebate Branch

3. The committee requested the Department of Urban Affairs to supply (a) particulars regarding its subsidy agreement with the City of Prince Albert with respect to the Gateway North Plaza, including expected total amount of subsidy, over what period, and details of projected repayment; (b) copies of the projected increases in municipal revenues arising from downtown mall projects; and (c) if available, information regarding the commercial success of the Cornwall Centre yearly, to date, in terms of gross sales or in whatever form available.
4. Department of Urban Affairs: Hearing completed.
5. The following document was tabled:

PAC 49 — Department of Health — report requested by the committee on Trust Accounts for Patients, the Bazaar Trust Fund Accounts, charges against estates of deceased patients and the rural practice establishment grants.

PAC 50 — Department of Social Services — report re: Investigation Statistics — Saskatchewan Assistance Plan, 1980-81.

6. Public Hearing: Department of Culture & Youth

Witnesses:

K. Johns, Executive Director of Support Services

K. Rogers, Associate Deputy Minister

7. The department agreed to supply (a) copies of the grant application and formula for determining grants to provincial sports governing bodies; and (b) information regarding the provision of Cultural Facilities Capital Grants under the old and new programs and what impact the population figures have on the amount of grant available.
8. Department of Culture & Youth: Hearing completed.
9. The committee agreed to hold a briefing session on the agenda of the Public Accounts Committee Conference, Toronto, July 1983 prior to the conference, tentatively on Tuesday, July 5, 1983 at 10:00 a.m. The committee requested the Clerk to provide background material and a presentation on the agenda topics and to call whatever other local witnesses would be helpful.
10. The committee requested the Clerk to find a way to identify the verbatims as to the period under review.
11. The committee requested that each committee member be supplied with a bound copy of the indexed verbatim and reports at the end of each session.
12. The committee held an *in camera* meeting to consider the draft of the Fourth Report of the committee.
13. The committee agreed to table a progress report outlining its work to date with recommendations and comments to be included in a later final report.
14. The draft Fourth Report was adopted with the addition of an explanation of the interim nature of the report.
15. The committee agreed to flag the following items for inclusion in the Final Report in addition to those listed in previous minutes:

Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation:

The committee agreed to consider this further after requested information had been received and reviewed.

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation:

Flag problems with the land assembly program (see item 8 of Second Public Accounts Committee Report of March 9, 1983)

Flag extreme cost overruns in non-profit housing program

Department of Government Services:

The committee agreed to consider this further after requested information had been received and reviewed

Saskatchewan Computer Utility Corporation:

- Flag inadequate investment policy
- Flag concerns over declaration of dividends when in deficit position
- Flag inadequate borrowing procedures from Crown Investment Corporation for capital purchases

Department of Health:

Nothing to flag.

Saskatchewan Community Legal Services:

- Flag inadequate monitoring and determination of client eligibility
- Flag concern re: the commission's lack of control over clinic solicitors
- Flag apparent extravagant decor and appointment of legal offices and related image problem
- Commend Yorkton and Melville clinics for efficient operation and good service
- Flag concern over practice of not asking for costs which could offset legal aid expenditures
- Consider further the question of the Saskatoon clinic's use of Community Aid telephone answering service once requested information on this matter is received

Department of Revenue, Supply and Services:

- Consider further the adequacy of Education and Health Tax audits while noting some progress in obtaining additional staff, once further information is received and the verbatim reviewed
- Flag item 2.3.3 in the Provincial Auditor's Report re: collection of corporate capital tax.

Department of Urban Affairs:

Nothing to flag.

Department of Culture & Youth:

- Flag the Department's failure to evaluate the YES program to determine whether it had outlived its usefulness in terms of its original objectives
- Tentatively flag problem of relative provincial funding levels to Centre of the Arts in Regina and the Saskatoon Centennial Auditorium

Municipal Employees' Superannuation Commission:

Note and commend actuarial surplus position

16. The committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to the call of the Chair.

GWENN RONYK
Committee Clerk

E.B. SHILLINGTON
Chairman