

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

Legislative Office Building, Rooms 210-211

Concord, NH

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Neal Kurk, Chair

Rep. Ken Weyler

Rep. Lynne Ober

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner

Rep. Dan Eaton

Rep. Frank Byron (Alt.)

Sen. Gary Daniels, Vice-Chair

Sen. Chuck Morse

Sen. Lou D'Allesandro

Sen. John Reagan

(Meeting convened at 10:04 a.m.)

(1) Organization of Committee

NEAL KURK, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #02, House Finance Committee Chairman and Chair of Fiscal Committee: Good morning, everyone. I'd like to welcome you all to the first meeting of the Fiscal Committee for the 2017-2018 Legislative Session. Since some of us are returning members and some of us are new, I'd like each of you to introduce yourselves. We'll start with Senator Reagan.

JOHN REAGAN, State Senator, Senate District #17: Senator Reagan, Vice-Chair of Finance.

CHAIRMAN KURK: From?

SEN. REAGAN: Deerfield.

LOU D'ALLESANDRO, State Senator, Senate District #20: Lou D'Allesandro, State Senator from Manchester, District 20.

CHUCK MORSE, State Senator and Senate President, Senate District #22: Senate President Chuck Morse from Salem.

GARY DANIELS, State Senator, Senate District #11: Senator Gary Daniels from Milford, Finance Chair in Senate.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Neal Kurk from Weare.

KEN WEYLER, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #13: Ken Weyler from Kingston, also representing Hampstead.

LYNNE OBER, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #37: Lynne Ober from Hudson and also representing Pelham.

MARY JANE WALLNER, State Representative, Merrimack County, District #10: Mary Jane Wallner from Concord and also representing Hopkinton.

DAN EATON, State Representative, Cheshire County, District #03: Dan Eaton from Stoddard.

FRANK BYRON, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #20: Frank Byron representing the Town of Litchfield.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Representative Byron and Representative Umberger are alternates on the House side.

At this point we will organize the Committee. Statutorily, the Chair of the House Finance Committee is Chairman of the Fiscal Committee. So by virtue of my appointment to that position, I chair this Committee. So our next -- first order of business is to elect a Vice-Chair and Chair recognizes Senator D'Allesandro for a motion.

****** SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I nominate Gary Daniels to Vice-Chair of this Committee.

REP. WEYLER: Second.

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CHAIRMAN KURK: Seconded by Representative Weyler. Are there any further nominations? Nominations are hereby closed. Chair orders the clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Senator Daniels and declares that Senator Daniels is hereby elected Vice-Chairman of the Fiscal Committee.

Our next position to elect is a Committee Clerk. The Chair recognizes Representative Eaton.

** REP. EATON: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Representative Weyler to be Clerk.

REP. OBER: Second.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Representative Eaton moves, seconded by Representative Ober that Representative Weyler be Clerk of the Committee. Are there further nominations?

** REP. EATON: Move nominations be closed and Chair casts one ballot for Representative Weyler.

REP. OBER: Second.

CHAIRMAN KURK: All those in favor, please indicate by saying aye? Opposed? The ayes have it and the motion is approved and Representative Weyler is the duly-elected Clerk of the Committee.

*** **{MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN KURK: Chair recognizes Senator Reagan for a motion with respect to our next order of business, which is to appoint a Legislative Budget Assistant for a two-year term pursuant to RSA 14:30. Senator Reagan.

** SEN. REAGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my pleasure and honor to nominate Michael Kane. Michael was first appointed as the LBA in September of 2015 after having served four years as the Deputy LBA. Prior to becoming the Deputy, Mike was employed

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at the LBA as a Senior Budget Officer and a Budget Officer for 11 years. He worked on the various budget areas including revenue, Capital Budget, HHS, Education, and General Government, and Mike has also provided assistance to the LBA Audit Division.

Prior to moving to New Hampshire, Mike was employed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives as a Budget Analyst in the House Ways and Means Committee in Massachusetts. Mike holds a Masters in Public Administration from Suffolk University and Bachelor's from Merrimack College. And my interaction with Mike has been that found to be very supportive and very knowledgeable and is a definite asset to the efforts we make.

REP. OBER: Second, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Moved by Senator Reagan, seconded by Representative Ober that Michael Kane be appointed Legislative Budget Assistant for the upcoming legislative session. Are there further nominations? There being -- there being none, I declare nominations closed, instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot for Mr. Kane and declare Mr. Kane our duly-elected Legislative Budget Assistant for the next session and congratulate him on his appointment.

MICHAEL KANE, Legislative Budget Assistant, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Thank you very much.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN KURK: At this time, we need to review our rules and policies, and I'd ask Mr. Kane to go over those prior to adopting them. These -- I think each of you have received a copy of these. They're Appendix A to the e-mail that was sent on November 20th, 2016. Mr. Kane, are copies available for the public?

MR. KANE: I do have some copies available. Good morning, Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the

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nomination and approval of the LBA. I look forward to working with all of you.

First order of business relative to Fiscal Committee rules and procedures on Appendix A. These are similar to what has been the practice for the last several years.

Number one, the Committee requires that any requested action pursuant to positions be only for the current biennium. So this Committee will only approve it through the biennium right now, will only be for the biennium ending June 30th, 2017. Once you're into July, that's when you do it for the biennium ending June 30, 2019. Same thing with the Committee accept and expends that will only be for the current biennium. You don't want to go into the next budget process.

Also, there's relative to consent calendar, we group items on the consent calendar for the various statutes listed: 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized; 9:16-c, Transfer of Federal Grant Funds; 9:17-d, Transfer of Appropriations for Judicial Branch; 14:30, Acceptance of Funds, and 124:15, Positions Restricted. However, members do make motions to pull the items off the Consent Calendar at any time. And then the last administrative rule relative to the Fiscal Committee is the acceptance of a late item requires Chairman Kurk to actually approve that prior to being allowed as a late item. So that's relative to the Committee itself.

Relative to our office, similar to past practice would give me the authority to grant step increases for my employees upon satisfactory performance of their duties, and additional for exceptional service in some instances. We will inform the Fiscal Committee in a letter of those steps that were granted. In the case that an employee is up for a promotion, we first require the approval of the Chair of the Fiscal Committee. And then relative to filling a vacancy, we request the full Committee approve that and so that outlines those rules.

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CHAIRMAN KURK: Thank you. Are there any questions? Would someone care to make a motion that we adopt these rules as the rules of the Committee for the upcoming session? Representative Weyler.

** REP. WEYLER: So move.

SEN. REAGAN: Second.

REP. OBER: Second.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Seconded by Senator Reagan. Discussion? There being none, are you ready for the question? All those in favor, please indicate by saying aye? Opposed? The ayes have it and the motion passes, and the rules as set forth on Appendix A dated December 16, 2016, will be the rules for the Fiscal Committee for the upcoming biennium.

*** {**MOTION ADOPTED**}

(2) **RSA 21-I:8, II, (a) and (b), Division of Accounting Services:**

CHAIRMAN KURK: At this time we'll turn to the first and only item of business on our agenda, Fiscal 16-196, a request from the Department of Administrative Services for authorization for an extension for the public release of the 2016 State of New Hampshire Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the CAFR, and the Liquor Commission's Audited Financial Statements from December 31st, 2016, the current deadline, to January 31st, 2017, the requested date. The Chair recognizes Miss Quiram, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services, and acknowledges the presence of Mr. Gerard (sic), our Comptroller. Good morning to both of you.

VICKI QUIRAM, Commissioner, Department, of Administrative Services: Good morning, Committee, and it's good to be back in front of you again this -- for the next Fiscal Years, although not for this reason, I have to say.

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So today we are here before you asking for an extension on the CAFR. We did the same thing last year as you know. If you read the letter, it clearly says that the reason that we are asking for the extension this year actually has to do with the lingering effects of turnover in our accountants, certainly, both in DAS and in the Agencies.

In this case last year when I talked to you I told you that last year was Gerard's first year to be with us to do the CAFR. And he had zero staff because we had had -- we didn't have anybody in the positions under Gerard until the very end of last year when we were doing this job. We have had a very hard time getting accountants to come and work for us. Certainly, those who know State accounting, which is different than business accounting, so it's challenging.

Just so you know as a side note, we are actually working with some of the universities to try to get them to help us train people in government accounting and make sure that, in fact, we can help them in any way we can for the future. However, from the perspective of DAS, we -- we did hire two people at the end of the year last year. One is with us today. It's Dana Call. If you haven't met Dana Call, you need to meet her. She is absolutely fabulous and I think Gerard would tell you, too. With Gerard's expertise and Dana helping, it's really changed our ability certainly to do what we need to do on the CAFR.

We also have Steve Giovinelli which has been a very big asset to us in our group. He, however, has a whole other different responsibilities he's working on. Other than the CAFR, he is working on the Federal CAFR.

GERARD MURPHY, Director (Comptroller), Division of Accounting Services, Department of Administrative Services:
Single audit.

MS. QUIRAM: Single audit CAFR that deals with our Federal funds so he's very busy doing that. They are all working

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24 hours a day and doing a fabulous job. They are doing everything they possibly can.

This year we also, one of the other things I think you asked me, is to be very specific about my schedule with the Agencies. And we did this year put out a very specific schedule that we had agreements on. However, we were -- we still had statements that we had not received and were moving as of December 2nd this year. The process is we have to be able to gather these from all the other Agencies. We then have to put those in the Statewide CAFR. Then it has to be audited. Our real goal is always to make sure that the numbers are correct and make sure that the auditors have time to audit all the numbers. And when we have numbers that are moving in that late in the game, there's not a lot we can do.

I will tell you that the people that have been late with their information are experiencing the same thing. It is a lingering effect of not having the people. We have had wide turnover, a lot of turnover in the positions in the Agencies and at DAS in this field. We had a hard time hiring and people are still getting used to --

MR. MURPHY: Getting up to speed.

MS. QUIRAM: -- financial statements that have been in the past done by different people that had been there for a long time. They're still learning and they are coming up to speed. We do have a very good idea of what the numbers are. So we are -- we can tell you we do not think that there's going to be a lot of changes during the audit. We have a pretty good idea where we are. We are sharing those numbers with everybody who is looking at budgets right now and we -- we feel like we have a pretty good handle on things. We just need to go through the audit and we need to put the audited financial statements out. We feel very comfortable that we can do that by the end of the month of January. And we have also checked with the LBA to make sure that they are comfortable with that and the Treasurer and all the people that are working on this right now. There's a

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huge team and it gets very complicated putting this together. And the entire team does feel comfortable right now as far as asking for a January 31st deadline. If you have any other questions, we are happy to answer those questions.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Questions from Members? Senator D'Allesandro.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, always nice to see both of you. Thanks so much for your good work on behalf of the State of New Hampshire. Is there a possibility of using the University System and other colleges who have accounting majors, finance majors, to create some kind of an internship program where people from, particularly, master's degree candidates, could spend time with you as interns and aid with the process? I think that would accomplish two things.

First of all, you would get some needed help in terms of doing the initial job; but, secondly, you'd be in the process of training people for the kind of accounting that you're talking about and possibly lead to jobs for them, you know, in the government sector in the future. And I recognize the fact that accounting major's hard -- hard to come by, people aren't moving in that direction; but, indeed, we have a resource, a very good MBA program at the University of New Hampshire and a good program at Dartmouth and maybe we could make use -- make use of this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MURPHY: Senator, thanks for the question. It's a good idea. I will say that we have -- my office has reached out to the Community College System about developing some sort of a curriculum to really serve as a resource for State Employees. I think, you know, as the Commissioner said, governmental accounting is sort of a -- it's -- experience in governmental accounting is somewhat rare, and anything we could do to serve as a resource centrally for the financial staff throughout the state, I think it really would pay off in better informed staff in the Agencies. So we are -- we have reached out to them. They

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are certainly receptive to the idea of coming up with a way to provide some -- some governmental accounting training and maybe even some New Hampshire government specific training. I think for us that's our first step. But I think the natural progression of that would be to then reach out to the University System and I think interns would be -- would be a tremendous help.

MS. QUIRAM: Just a little addition there. And thank you very much for asking that question. We have a part-time talent acquisition management person that is working in DAS. It's a part-time position this Committee helped us to obtain. And we are currently -- that is our number one action item that we are working on right now is internships and how do we for these hard to recruit areas, our nursing, our engineers, our accountants, and those that we have identified as hard to recruit, how do we work together?

We have 18 Agencies working together and she has just put out a document, a central document to try to get an enterprise-wide way that we can share resources and we can let people know here is how you hire interns. Here's how some people have really good programs. We are going to model those programs and give people the ability to hire interns, because we do think it be a great way to bring talent into the state.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Follow-up.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Just one. Internships is a big thing in education as we speak. So I think anything we can do to move in that direction helps the individual but it also helps us. And it just seems to me, we ought to get that thing -- get that thing moving. And we have a member of the Board of Trustees of the System here who could help us in that direction, in terms of promoting the internships and bringing -- bringing that service to State Government, which is desperately needed.

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CHAIRMAN KURK: Further questions? I do have one. Could you review the past, say, five years and tell us how many years the CAFR was late and which Agencies were the cause of the delay?

MR. MURPHY: Well, let's see. I know that last year we were late and that was really, in my mind, that was the perfect storm of there seemed to be a long list of reasons why we were late last year. It was the immediate turnover. DAS lost, I would say, the three top financial positions during Fiscal Year 15; the Commissioner, the Comptroller and the Director of Financial Reporting. So I think that was a big part of why we were late last year. Again, Agency staff, there was turnover in high-level Agency financial staff.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Wasn't that the year Transportation had problems?

MR. MURPHY: Last year Transportation was not an issue.

CHAIRMAN KURK: It was the year before.

REP. OBER: It was the year before.

MR. MURPHY: Yeah, I think in '14 we were not -- actually, there was not an extension granted in '14 because the CAFR came. I think it was out -- may have been 6:00 p.m. on the 31st, but we were not late in '14.

The issues at Transportation were about ten years ago, '05, '06, that time frame. I remember because as a result of the -- the difficulties at DOT, they hired financial positions. I was one of the positions that they hired ten years ago. So I was involved in it back then. And the -- and it worked because I'll be honest with you, DOT, the Highway Fund and also the Turnpike System, they have now -- they're now one of the areas that really are solid performers in the financial realm, and we are grateful to have -- do not have to worry about that area as well.

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CHAIRMAN KURK: The reason for the history question is to suggest that this has happened in the past on a relatively regular basis. And so why isn't it going to happen again next year, and the year after?

MR. MURPHY: Well, I think, you know, we -- we are learning more every day. And we are able to build up that familiarity with the statements. We are able to be able to react more quickly. I think experience in this area goes a long way. And the more we are doing, the better we'll be. I think there may be some specific agencies where we need to look at do they have the right level of staffing. And that's something that -- that might -- the Department of Administrative Services will certainly work closely with knowing where the problem areas are, knowing where we think folks need to -- to bolster their financial resources. I think we'll -- because we have been late two years in a row, I think, you know, that's the perfect hammer for us to have to ensure that they try and get the resources they need to make sure we come in on time in the future.

CHAIRMAN KURK: My concern is because of the level of staffing that we have throughout the state, we don't have redundant positions, for example. Sometimes we don't have assistant commissioners, sometimes we don't have assistant whomever, that in the future we'll have the same problem. Someone will leave, for legitimate reasons, and that agency will not be able to meet their time deadline as a result, because there isn't the depth. Perhaps, if you had a person who could be reassigned on a temporary basis to deal with these situations or some other brilliant plan; but you know this is going to happen again, because that's the nature of our employment structure, and I think you need to be prepared for it. Representative Ober.

REP. OBER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, my question kind of parallels the Chairman's. And I realize the question I'm going to ask neither one of you were in or thinking about being in the positions you're currently in. So, again, it's a historical question. But I was Vice-Chairman of Finance when we had the horrible economic recession just a few years

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ago, and one of the things we did to avoid laying off people was to abolish empty positions so that we weren't saying to Employee X, sorry, you're job's gone away. But our revenues were way down. The economy was horrible. How many people did DAS alone lose in that budget? Do you recall, Commissioner Quiram?

MS. QUIRAM: I have looked back at the numbers, and it was about 55 is what is in most of the documentation. Now, when they lost the 55 positions, those have not -- we have not gained them back. But it's very hard for me as I've tried to prepare data that actually shows which positions and what, it's difficult because we also then have taken on Public Works which used to be in the Department of Transportation. We have Shared Services which used to be someplace else. We have these extra -- extra duties and extra groups that we have acquired in that time. But there were, as far as administrative positions, about 55 of those.

And then we continue to get more legislation that requires us to do more. And, you know, I brought this Senate Bill 222 with me from the '14 session which actually gives us an additional responsibility assisting the Department of Transportation Turnpike System, Liquor Commission, Lottery Commission in the completion of their separate stand-alone financial statements for the preceding Fiscal Year. We have spent a lot of time in some of these Agencies' offices this year which takes us away from doing the overall CAFR with exactly the same employees that we had before we got this responsibility.

So it is -- it is impossible for us to be in the offices of these other Agencies helping them with their financial statements with the current staff that we have and the lack of depth that exists in the Department of Administrative Services. So it does. It's -- this is a tough area.

REP. OBER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Representative Ober.

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REP. OBER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I think just a benign comment for the Committee. Each of us should think about if we see a bill that adds a duty but doesn't add staff not passing that bill, and we may need to think about going back and repealing some of these bills that were passed that didn't add staff if we can't afford to add the staff. Because that's part of what has happened as the Commissioner said. Senate Bill 222, well-meaning, passed in '14, didn't staff. Since then we've had additional problems with the CAFR because they're no longer in their office. So just something for us to think about as we go forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Representative Weyler.

REP. WEYLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had a bill go into effect about a year ago requiring some financial reporting for the Legislature.

REP. OBER: SB 32.

REP. WEYLER: Thank you. And we knew eight months ago that we weren't getting those reports. So that would be the time to say the problem is staffing. We never heard that at this Committee or at Finance the problem was staffing. That would have been the time to make it available to us and make us aware of it. We just thought it was some other problem. So if we had known at the time that was -- that was a staffing problem --

REP. OBER: We asked that.

REP. WEYLER: -- we could have done something.

REP. OBER: We did ask that.

MR. MURPHY: Yes, and it came up certainly during the debate around the bill. That -- the requirement -- the requirements of that bill are, I think, extremely valuable. I mean, we should be doing them, the expenditure reporting in that manner. And where we discussed the bill there was some uncertainty about exactly how mechanically we would achieve it. We didn't know. But

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because the end result is so valuable, I think, you know, we -- we needed to do it. And so once we dug into it, once the requirement was in place and we set -- we set ourselves towards figuring out how to do it, we realized that it wasn't as simple as it appeared and as we originally assumed it would be. So these difficulties sort of came up during the process and, certainly, you all know contributed towards the delay in getting the numbers.

I think at this point we have a process in place that's going to allow us to meet the requirements of the law. As I stated at the last Fiscal meeting, it is a pretty manual process at this point still. But we are working towards making it much more automated and it's -- I think we are already starting to see fruit of -- we are working with Agencies right now to prepare the second quarter report for Fiscal 17. So I think, again, this is another one of those things where as we practice this, as we get used to doing it, it's going to increase our efficiency and make a better product at the end of the day.

So '17, the second quarter of '17, I anticipate it being ready for public distribution mid -- middle of January. So it should be in plenty of time for the decision-makers to have a sense as to what's going on in spending for Fiscal 17.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Senator Daniels.

SEN. DANIELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to go back to the Chairman's original question which was that you were late getting the CAFR in 2015. The question was were there -- what Agencies were late in their submission to the deadline for DAS? The only thing you talked about was the personnel that DAS did not have. So are you specifically saying that all Departments had submitted their reports to DAS in a timely manner and that it was just the lack of personnel in DAS that caused the report to be late?

MS. QUIRAM: And you're talking about last year?

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SEN. DANIELS: Last year.

MS. QUIRAM: Last year, no. It was a combination. It was a combination of DAS and the Agencies. And I think my comment was I think that DAS has been able to staff up and has the expertise that we need. Some of the Agencies still do not have the expertise that they need. And we have this year been working with the Agencies to try to help them and to try to early on let them know that they need to get the expertise they need.

SEN. DANIELS: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Follow-up.

SEN. DANIELS: Could you identify those Agencies?

MS. QUIRAM: From last year?

SEN. DANIELS: Yes.

MR. MURPHY: From last year it was -- last year was the Liquor Commission. There was some problems with the Medicaid liability. But, again, that was staffing but it was -- it was turnover and staffing, and it was also the implementation of a new Medicaid Information System, as well as the implementation of the Managed Care structure for the Medicaid Program. So there were a number of -- of issues throughout the state.

There was implementation of a pension standard as well. There was GASB 68 which required us to completely change the way in which we report the State's pension liability. And that was a very major change in accounting that had to be developed and then shared throughout the state. So, like I said, it was a perfect storm. But we -- DAS was not the only agency to face financial staff turnover. It was fairly widespread.

CHAIRMAN KURK: You said Liquor last year and Liquor this year?

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MR. MURPHY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Thank you. Further question.

SEN. DANIELS: Yes. Of those who were late getting reports in last year, besides Liquor, are there any more that are also delinquent this year?

MR. MURPHY: No. And Liquor is -- is -- they have submitted everything. We have got everything. I think, you know, is the reason for this delay entirely because of Liquor Commission? No, I can't say with certainty that that's the case. But they have -- they have had some trouble and we have had some trouble providing them with help. So it's definitely a complicated area that they're dealing with. They're dealing -- to me, in my mind, it's -- it's the fact that there have been some -- a lack of policies and procedures that things were done a certain way in the past that there may not have been the trail there to sort of unwind how transactions were handled. And so it's been difficult to figure out. I think for the large part they've -- the information they provided is solid. But, you know, we'll have to see how the rest of the audit goes.

In my mind right now there's a pretty narrow area of uncertainty and we're close to having it figured out; but we're not quite there yet.

REP. OBER: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN KURK: May I suggest that next year this not happen again? Thank you. Representative Ober.

REP. OBER: Just a little history on the Liquor financial situation. I can't remember George's last name, but he was their long-term CFO. Michael Kane, do you remember?

MR. KANE: Tsiopras.

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REP. OBER: Tsiopras. There we go. He left government service. Then their new financial guy wasn't here very long and he left and there was a vacancy. Then they got Steve Kander, was it?

MR. KANE: Kiander.

REP. OBER: Kiander. He was making good progress. Bid on a job, went to HHS. I think he's still in HHS finance and now Tina's there, and she's actually bringing some stability and working through some of the issues and she started last year. But she -- it took two years, from what I understand, to kind of go through everything that happened. So Liquor had a long-term historical financial issue that went on, and on, and on. And when you don't have the procedures and the policies when the long-term CFO leaves, it makes it much harder, the people fall behind; isn't that true, Mr. Murphy?

MR. MURPHY: That's correct. And there was even another position right below George who left maybe six months after George.

REP. OBER: I remember that.

MR. MURPHY: Gentleman by the name of Dave Sigourney. He was instrumental in their financial statements and that was the double whammy.

MS. QUIRAM: And I have to say their Commissioner at one point when I called him literally cancelled every meeting that they were having to put everybody he possibly could on this, so.

CHAIRMAN KURK: May I have a motion?

** REP. OBER: I move to approve.

REP. WEYLER: Second.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Move to -- Representative Ober moves, Representative Weyler seconds that the item be approved. Further

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questions or discussion? There being none, are you ready for the question? All those in favor, please indicate by saying aye? Opposed? The ayes have it and the item is approved.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRMAN KURK: Congratulations, good luck, and we are not going to see you here with the same request next year.

MS. QUIRAM: I hope not.

REP. OBER: Don't -- we don't want to lose them. I'd rather see that.

(3) Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment:

CHAIRMAN KURK: Our next item of business is to set our date of meeting. Usually we meet on the third Friday which would be January 20th. Is that agreeable for folks that we continue that practice?

SEN. REAGAN: I have a conflict with JLCAR.

CHAIRMAN KURK: On the third Friday?

SEN. REAGAN: Usually, yeah.

REP. OBER: Second Friday?

CHAIRMAN KURK: Second Friday work for folks? Second Friday it is.

REP. WEYLER: Friday the 13th.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Yes. And I understand that is one of our member's lucky day. So this is a very good omen for starting off.

REP. OBER: Let's hope no Agency has to come on January 13th.

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CHAIRMAN KURK: Our next meeting will be January 13th.
Sorry, Senator Daniels.

SEN. DANIELS: Mr. Chairman, is there a possibility we could start the meeting at 9 o'clock instead of 10?

CHAIRMAN KURK: Folks, I'm looking for problems or agreement.

SEN. REAGAN: How much time you need for your pre-meeting?

REP. WEYLER: You have it the day before possibly?

REP. OBER: The day before could be a session. Every Thursday could be a session.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I think we should keep it at 10 to be honest with you. As long as we start on time it works out; but I think nine is a bit early.

SEN. DANIELS: It runs into a conflict with me at 11.

REP. WEYLER: The Chairman is very efficient.

CHAIRMAN KURK: There is no way that this Committee will be able to finish by 11 o'clock on all of its meetings. That just can't happen. If we have audits --

REP. OBER: We'd be starting at 5:00 a.m. to be done before 11.

CHAIRMAN KURK: Yeah. And I point out, Senator, that even if we started at nine, chances of us finishing at 11 o'clock on any given day is very unlikely.

REP. WEYLER: Some of the Agencies might have to do some prep before they come.

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CHAIRMAN KURK: Okay. Then we will meet at 10 o'clock on Friday, January 13th. And as a general rule, we will schedule our meetings for the second Friday of the month. There being no further business to come before us, we stand adjourned.

(The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.)

CERTIFICATION

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter-Shorthand, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript from my shorthand notes taken on said date to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and judgment.

Cecelia A. Trask

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