

MINUTES

Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 57th SESSION

January 23, 1973

Meeting called to order by Chairman Don Mello at 8:05 AM in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

Present: Mello, Schofield, Dreyer, Prince, Robinson, Capurro, Howard.

Also Present: John Dolan, Randy Webb and Ron Sparks, Deputy Budget Administrator.

Excused Absence: Mr. Hafen.

Chairman Mello made the announcement regarding cupboard space for committee members. Also, an announcement was made on the Arts Committee. Appropriation of approximately \$1,200 for rental and/or purchase of art. No objections were made by the committee. At a later date another appropriation bill for the purchase of the paintings, if any, will be made. No objections from Committee.

Introduction of Mr. Ron Sparks, Deputy Budget Administrator representing the Governor.

Mr. Sparks made a brief explanation of the Group Insurance as noted on page A17 of the budget. The amount is included within each agency's budget and the amount indicated is greater than the final result obtained from the insurance carrier. The Budget Division plans that if during the session any changes in the program amounts are made all changes will be made in the revenue section of each budget for this group insurance. In order to balance this out they have made a minus reduction in the total general fund recap.

Salaries: Classified salaries are shown in each of the budgets at their present levels and have been projected for the next biennium to include merit salary increases. Unclassified salaries are in the budget at the level recommended by the Governor for the first year of the next biennium. It is being proposed that a consumer price increase for unclassified employees be granted effective January 1, 1974. That amount is in the unclassified salary adjustment Fund. Funds are not built into the individual budgets because (1) it is not so difficult to build the amounts in, but if you decide to make the raise a 3 or 2% one, to pull it out and readjust the entire budget causes a problem and (2) we found that during a fiscal year most agencies have an operating savings of some sort so that if you don't move money into the agencies and the agencies have maintained an operating savings then there isn't any need to put the money into the agencies because they have sufficient funds to put their salary increases into effect.

The following changes should be made on page 584: Under the "Governor Recommends" column for fy 1973-74 the Total Other Funds should be \$149,476,000 which in turn changes the Total All Funds to \$283,434,838. Also under "Governor Recommends" for fy 1974-75 the Total Other Funds should be \$149,946,603 and the Total All Funds should be \$294,981,400.

Supplementals and One-Shots as follows:

Aging Services - \$29,000. Explanation as outlined on page A18; and further than plans are still active for obtaining the Federal funds and this money would be set aside in the hopes of obtaining such funding.

Extradition Clerk - \$19,670. Explanation as outlined on page A18 and further explanation that this amount is now due and owing to the various counties for expenses incurred during this biennium. Requesting that the Legislature approve payment of funds over and above the budget be made out of the Statutory Contingency Fund.

Parole & Probation - \$10,000. Explanation as outlined on page A18.

Controller - \$225,000. Explanation will be given at a later date.

Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs - \$16,000. Explanation as outlined on page A18.

Dental Health - \$23,273. Explanation as outlined on page A19.

Environmental Health - \$61,200. Explanation as outlined on page A19 and further explanation that approximately \$20,000 of this amount would be used for the purchase of a mobile laboratory for on-sight inspection. This unit would be needed to meet Federal guidelines. The unit would be used on a state-wide basis.

Chairman Mello suggested that to alleviate such detailed discussion of each supplemental that the assignment of subcommittees be made at this time. See attached listing.

Nevada Mental Health Institute - \$70,000. Explanation as outlined on page A19.

Prison - \$143,450. Explanation as outlined on page A19.

University of Nevada Reno and Las Vegas - \$100,000 each. Explanation as outlined on page A19. Mr. Capurro requested a further detailed breakdown for the requested appropriation.

Building & Grounds - \$44,625. Explanation as outlined on page A19. Further explanation of appropriation for \$27,372 to include 5 watchmen, 7 janitors and supplies and equipment.

Attorney General - \$8,000. Explanation as outlined on page A20. Mr. Robinson requested a breakdown of the request for furnishings.

Division of Forestry - \$168,500. Explanation as outlined on page A20. Further explanation in that the nursery now located at the University in Reno would be phased out and the new nursery would be built in Washoe Valley. Products of this nursery are mainly used for windbreak and watershed purposes.

Department of Agriculture - \$68,300. Explanation as outlined on page A20. Further explanation that the vehicles presently in use are 1964 models and that maintenance is becoming more costly.

Lost City Artifacts - \$90,000. Explanation as outlined on page A20. Request was made by Chairman Mello for the original quote made to the legislature. It was explained that money that was expected to be made by contribution from the Fair & Recreation Board in Las Vegas was determined by the Attorney General that they could not use those funds for the purposes intended. Mr. Smith stated that a Bill Request was made this morning that would clarify the Board's ability to contribute the funds.

Classified Salaries - \$431,479. Explanation as outlined on page A20.

Unclassified Salaries - \$104,886. Explanation as outlined on page A20.

University Classified and Technical Salaries - \$103,440. Explanation as outlined on page A20.

Group Insurance - \$74,796. Explanation as outlined on page A20 with further detailed explanation given by Mr. Dolan.

Stale Claims - \$21,167. Explanation as outlined on page A21.

9:00 recess of 10 minutes. Reconvened at 9:10.

Interim Finance Committee - \$340,674. Explanation as outlined on page A21.

Statutory Contingency Fund - General Fund \$85,181; Highway Fund \$2,134. Explanation as outlined on page A21.

Board of Examiners' Emergency Fund - \$47,260. Explanation as outlined on page A22.

Aging Services - \$50,000. Explanation as outlined on page A22.

Services to the Blind - \$50,000. Explanation as outlined on page A22.

Tax Study - \$50,000. Explanation as noted on page A22. Discussion followed regarding previous studies made: Lybren (1964), Zubrow (1960) and an ad hoc committee appointed by Governor Laxalt.

Public Service Commission - \$20,000. Explanation as outlined on page A22, further remarks made by Mr. Ashworth.

Laboratory Study - \$20,000. Explanation as outlined on page A22.

Self-Insurance Fund - \$1,010,000. Explanation as outlined on page A22. An "Evaluation of Insurable Exposures, Insurance Programs and Self-Insurance Feasibility for the State of Nevada", prepared by Ebasco Services Incorporated was presented to the committee for their further study. Discussion of equitability of self-insurance followed.

Computer Facility - \$2,263,000. Explanation as outlined on page A23.

Economic Development - \$175,000. Explanation as outlined on page A23.

Division of Parks (Highway Department) - \$250,000. Explanation as outlined on page A23.

Attorney General - \$76,000. Explanation as outlined on page A23.

Divison of Water Resources - \$175,000. Explanation as outlined on page A23.

Travel Revolving Fund - \$30,000. Explanation as outlined on page A23. Further explanation in that travel advances are paid for out of this amount.

Narcotics Reward - \$25,000. Explanation as outlined on page A23.

Educational Communications Commission - \$118,187. Explanation as outlined on page A24.

Fred and Diane Silva - \$50,000. Explanation as outlined on page A24.

Public Employees Retirement System and District Judges' Pension Fund - \$16,045. Explanation as outlined on page A24.

Emergency Medical Services - \$75,000. Explanation as outlined on page A24.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.

/dr