

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETINGS  
FEBRUARY 26, 1973

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Senator Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman  
Warren L. Monroe  
B. Mahlon Brown  
James I. Gibson  
William J. Raggio  
Clifton Young  
Archie Pozzi

Earl Oliver, LCB Fiscal Analyst  
Howard Barrett, Budget Administrator  
Cy Ryan, UPI

Frank Groves, Fish and Game Division  
James Desmond, Athletic Commission  
Bill Fitzpatrick, Department of Motor Vehicles  
Howard Hill, " Administrator  
Hale B. Bennett, " Automation Div.  
Leonard H. Wiechelman, "  
Ron Cassingham, " Highway Patrol  
Jim Lambert, " Highway Patrol  
John W. Borda, " Office of Highway Safety  
W. W. Richards, " Motor Carrier Division  
W. G. Hull, " "  
J. W. Williams, " Admin. Services Division  
N. L. Fletcher, Budget Division

FISH & GAME DIVISION - Pages 473-479:

Mr. Groves said they had region two because, "If we don't keep the public informed we're in trouble." They have also asked for a fish and game agent for Washoe and Clark Counties due to the increased population in those areas. They have asked for a fish and game agent and three clerical positions to accomodate the new titling of boats. They also request one other clerical position for a total request of six new positions for 1973-74. They are requesting one fish and game agent for the Lincoln and Nye County area, and one for Lake Tahoe for the 1974-75 fiscal year.

Under Improvements (fourth from the bottom on page 475) this is for any type of construction work that does not go to the planning board. This would include fences, dams they put in themselves, etc.

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There is a bill before Congress which would turn over the predator control to the states. This bill would give the states \$300,000 maximum for the first year on a 25/75 matching fund basis. During the second year they would allow a \$200,000 maximum on a 50/50 matching basis. There is a provision that not more than 10% of the license fees could be used for predator control. Mr. Groves said that they couldn't justify poison, but poison had been used years ago because other methods hadn't been developed. He said that the coyotte and bobcat population had been under control somewhat in recent years due to the control efforts, and that the public was demanding that less pretator work be done. There is a move toward less emphasis of this effort. However, Mr. Groves felt that in view of this coyottes and bobcats will increase in population and really become a problem. He said most of the wildlife and biologist people felt this way, too.

Mr. Groves said that they are required to protect hawks and owls. He said that there is a demand for such birds, particularly in Asia. The particular species of hawks found in Nevada are particularly valuable, being worth as much as \$5,000 overseas. There is an increasing interest in falconry, and Nevada has some of the best birds for this sport.

The Fish and Game Department made 1,508 arrests for violations last year and collected an average of \$30 per offense.

The \$110,000 for food on page 474 (7th from the bottom) is for fish food. Mr. Groves said he has just been notified that there will be a 40% increase in the price of fish food, and he hoped the budget request would be sufficient.

The \$80,000 for special reports on page 474 is a misprint. It is for special projects such as the purchase of birds, fish, etc.

The Lake Meade fish hatchery will be open around July of this year and will grow about 100,000 pounds of fish. They plant them about four fish to the pound so that they are large enough to survive.

Full time employees in the field are allowed \$125 per year for uniforms.

Last year the fish and game department put radio equipment on 10% of the pheasants they released in each given locality. Forty-nine percent of these were lost to predators, and another fifty percent were lost due to shock. Mr. Groves said that this has been done in other states and they got

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the same results. He said they are finding this program is actually a failure. Senator Lamb stated that in years past the program seemed to be successful. Mr. Groves replied that in the past they trapped from the wild and released them again, but now they have been required to buy them from private sources and release them in the spring. He said there is a lot of difference in this area. Purchased birds are used to having food put in front of them in a trough and are immediately unable to fend for themselves once released.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION - Pages 431-432:

Mr. Deskin stated that they sponsor two amateur boxing fights in nine Northern Nevada cities for 361 children. This is included in the \$10,000 under amateur program. The towns involved are Elko, Winnemucca, Nixon, Lovelock, Sparks, Reno, Carson City, the Stewart Indian School, and soon Henderson. There are two inspectors authorized \$25 per diem.

They requested an increase of \$2,000 in out-of-state travel which if granted would bring the request to a total of \$4,800. Mr. Deskin wanted this because of a meeting he wants to attend in Portland. He felt the board should attend.

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES - DIRECTORS OFFICE - Pages 504-505:

See attached remarks by Mr. Hill. He said they now have adequate office space and are asking primarily for an increase in personnel. He said they took in 21 million in 1972 and will take in 23 million this fiscal year (1972-1973). He said due to a lack of personnel in some areas we have not been able to keep up with the increased number of cars.

They are requesting a senior clerk typist, and one hearings officer this year and an additional hearings officer in 1974-75.

HIGHWAY PATROL - Pages 506-509 & HIGHWAY PATROL SPECIAL FUND  
- Pages 510-511:

There are currently 121 highway patrolmen including supervisors and the chief of the Highway Patrol Division. There are 97 patrolmen on the highways at the patrolman level. They are requesting 30 new patrolmen.

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They are requesting four new operators of communication centers. Two are for Carson City because these operators answer all telephones on emergencies, and handle after hours calls for the Gaming Control Board and other agencies. They handle the teletype and provide computer access for all state law enforcement agencies with regard to titles, drivers licenses, etc. They are also radio dispatchers, and these other duties cause them to be away from the radio. The other two operators requested would go to rural areas where because of a lack of staff, days off, etc., there are times during unassignable periods which require patrolmen to operate the communication centers. Mr. Hill felt this was wasting the patrolmen, and because patrolmen are paid more this was expensive.

They are requesting a senior clerk typist for Zone 3 because there is currently only one secretary for this large zone (Elko, Wells, Winnemucca) and this requires officers to type their reports. This is expensive in view of the officer's higher salary and also takes them off the highway.

The \$40,000 for overtime is necessary because the governor feels very strongly that they have fewer number of accidents on holidays if the entire or nearly the entire force patrol the highways. This is in essence holiday pay for working these holidays, and not actually overtime pay.

There are 48 patrolmen in Zone 1 (Las Vegas). The reason they don't have more is because of the compaction of the area. Each officer patrols a smaller area than in rural areas such as Zone 2 for instance, where it extends from Coaldale Junction to Tonopah. Rural areas require more dispersed areas because of their size. There are 37 officers in Zone 2 (Reno), and 23 in Zone 3 (rural areas).

The in-state travel is needed so officers can attend a training school which consists of a two-week session. Page 507 consists of travel for existing employees and the special fund on page 510 would pay for per diem for new employees (the requested 30 new positions).

The increase in the clothing and uniform allowance on page 507 is because currently they are paying \$15 per month for uniformed employees and they are requesting a raise to \$25 a month. Mr. Hill said a dress jacket cost \$75, shirts \$35, and they must provide their own hats, holster, and gun belt. Idaho furnishes uniforms at no cost, Montana provides uniforms at no cost plus \$150 per year, Alaska provides them at no cost plus \$200 a year, Oregon provides them at no cost, and Arizona

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pays \$25 a month as does Utah. Nationwide 43 of the states provide uniforms at no cost to officers. Mr. Hill also added that when investigating accidents sometimes clothing is ruined, for instance when battery acid comes in contact with clothing.

The increase in automobiles on page 508, fourth line, goes from \$124,500 in 1972-73 to \$180,000 for 1973-74 and \$195,500 for 1974-75. This would provide replacement of 45 automobiles for each fiscal year figuring \$4,000 for each car. The 1974-75 figure is slightly higher due to increased costs and inflation. These cars would be for current employees.

On page 511 under automobiles it jumps from \$60,000 in 1972-73 to \$160,000 in 1973-74 and 1974-75. This would provide the purchase of 20 vehicles for the requested 30 new employees and would also allow 20 of the current 40 fleet to be replaced. During 1974-75 they would purchase 10 vehicles and replace 30 of the fleet. Vehicle operation increases would also relate to the request for new positions and thus new automobiles. (Vehicle operation provides for gas, oil, engine repair, etc.)

The policy is to replace each automobile after two years. This schedule allows a minimum of 60,000 miles and is sometimes as high as 80,000.

Mr. Lambert said they try to provide each officer with a car. The committee asked why the vehicle didn't follow the shift instead of being assigned to an individual. Mr. Lambert said he would like to do this but in order to do so they would have to have the cars serviced for the next shift. As it is they would have to have the motor pool service the cars, and Mr. Lambert said he had a serious doubt about having inmates work on police cars. The major fleet operates out of Las Vegas and Reno, and Reno could service Carson City vehicles due to the close proximity, so if the division were allotted mechanics this would be feasible.

There are currently 121 patrolmen including supervisory staff. They are requesting 30 new patrolmen during the next biennium. The increase in salaries in the second year of the biennium is due to the fact that DMV is requesting that they receive general fund money. This is the first time they have recommended this.

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The general fund appropriation jumps from zero in this fiscal year to \$227,878 in 1973-74 and \$760,389 in 1974-75. Senator Brown said that the reason the governor is requesting general fund money for the first time is that he doesn't want to be in the position of raising taxes even if it was just \$1. He said what bothered him was what the general fund request would be in future years. Senator Lamb said that what made him nervous about the general fund supplementing this budget was that it set a precedent that went against the basic reasons for setting up the funding for DMV. Senator Monroe asked how much money DMV cost as compared to the revenues. Mr. Hill said that in 1972 they took in \$21,747,801 and \$13,502,000 went to the highway fund. Another \$7 million returned to counties. The budget for total DMV costs during the last two years has been \$11,662,000.

Senator Monroe said "The highway fund has gone to hell and we have to do something about it. The governor has said no new taxes, but the thing we should take a look at is some of these other fees. The highway fund is gone and going. If you can justify spending everything you request we are going to have to raise more money." DMV cost \$5 million and took in \$13 million which went back to the highway fund.

Senator Lamb said, "I just know that this committee will take a dim view of utilizing general funds for this. If you start this thing you are setting a precedent."

Senator Pozzi asked if there were quotas for citations. Mr. Lambert said that when he first took over he moved the red lights to the roof of the car where it was obviously visible because he felt that when motorists sighted patrol cars this was a deterrent. He said there are no quotas for tickets.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - Pages 512-513:

They requested a new account clerk for Las Vegas as they have only one at present. They are changing from using one cash register to each employee having his own cash box, which will speed up service to the public, but they feel they will need an additional account clerk for this.

#### DRIVERS LICENSE - Pages 514-516:

They are requesting one new examiner for Las Vegas and one for Carson City because these two offices have traveling examiners who go to outlying areas and give exams. In the Carson City office they have five examiners, there

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are three in the office when the other two travel, and if there is sick or annual leave, there are times when they have only one examiner.

The income from drivers licenses was \$514,000 last year. The budget request for that year was \$758,500 for a loss of \$244,000. But if you also figure in the costs which are related such as the service divisions (computer services, accounting, etc.) the total cost for drivers license is \$1,197,000 for a loss of \$682,000. They lose \$10 per license, but they collect \$5 per license, so the actual loss is \$5. It costs 10% of the budget for problem drivers.

MOTOR CARRIER SECTION - Page 517-519:

This division took in \$9 million in revenues. The only positions they are asking for are completely revenue collecting positions--1 senior auditor and two motor carrier field agents.

Mr. Richards said that there are 2,025 companies in the state who are motor carriers and they need an auditor to audit a good percentage of these companies. Now the present auditors are devoted to out of state audits. The motor carrier field agents would go to Tonopah and Carson City. Currently they don't have an agent in either area. There are five highways coming into the state around Tonopah and two coming in in Carson City. They feel there are a lot of vehicles going through the state here who aren't licensed from a commercial standpoint.

The \$2,350 for public relations expense (9th from the bottom on page 518) is actually to buy four full sets of signs at \$550 per set for traffic control when they run motor carrier checks.

The raw materials at the bottom of page 518 is to manufacture commercial license plates.

Motor Carrier is also requesting a raise in the uniform allowance to \$25 a month. They have not introduced a bill as this is not statutory.

Senator Pozzi noted DMV introduced 216 bills and wondered why they felt so many laws had to be changed. Mr. Hill stated that their deputy attorney general reviewed the laws with the division heads and did this to bring the laws into conformance with one another. He said they typed and drafted these bills themselves so they only

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had to be presented to the printer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ellen Hocker, Secretary

APPROVED:

  
Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman