

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 2, 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

George Zappettini - Division of Forestry
Elmo DeRicco - Department of Conservation
Vern Calhoun
Dr. Bill Thomason - Bureau of Dental Health
Ernie Gregory - Division of Health
Ted Reynolds - Business Manager - State Hospital
Joe Keough - Operations Coordinator - State Hospital
Neil Humphrey - State University
Don Jessup - State University
Ron Sparks -
Senator Helen Herr
Al Bernardi - Nevada Organization of Wildlife
Fred Wright - Fish and Game Commission
Wayne Capuno - Nevada Wildlife Federation
Roland Westergard - State Engineer
General Edsall
David Tomlinson

S.B. 137 - Mr. George Zappettini spoke in favor of raising the amount of money in the general fund from \$2,500 to \$5,000. This sum would be known as the State Forester Firewarden Revolving Fund and would be used by the State Forester Firewarden for the purpose of paying temporary labor hired for firefighting purposes who require prompt payment.

S.B. 247 - Section 6 - \$168,500 to the Division of Forestry. Mr. Zappettini spoke on the reasons for this appropriation:
1. A new nursery in Washoe Valley, new aircraft and \$2,500 to up the revolving fund from \$2,500 to \$5,000. \$90,000 would be for the nursery in Washoe Valley (budget justification for this nursery is attached). Mr. Zappettini stated that they are presently operating a 15 acre nursery on University Farm, 5 miles south of Sparks. They will have to move within the next few years and have selected a site in Washoe Valley which is now owned by the Bureau of Land Management and available for \$1250 per acre. They would acquire 60 acres and the remaining 20 acres would be with Fish and Game. It would be used for research and development of new plants and shrubs, as well as growing trees. There is not a nursery in Nevada now which produces native grown trees and his division has found that foreign stock is not the answer to the problem.

The majority of Division of Forestry's trees are grown for approximately 30¢ per tree. They process about 200 windbreak orders a year from private citizens, county and local and state agencies. They grow over 27 species and would like the larger site to go into multiple use. The cost of 30¢ per tree does not include capital investment; it only includes water, fertilizer, seed and labor. Different species cost varying amounts, overall they try to have the prices balance out to break just about even. Mr. Zappettini pointed out that if the accounting people were to set up a system, they would sell the trees at 30¢ plus capital investment.

Senator Young inquired as to why they could'nt raise the price of the trees and stop supplementing people who could well afford to pay a higher price, especially other States. Senator Young asked to be furnished with a list of names and prices of those purchasing trees within the last year.

Section 6, Item 2 - \$76,000 for purchase of replacement aircraft for the fire suppression and protection program. The Division of Forestry acquired in 1960 a surplus aircraft from the National Guard (twin beach craft). It is now 19 years old, and to meet FAA regulations it needs a complete overhaul which would cost 20 to 25,000 dollars. Therefore, they feel it would be better to replace it with a new plane, either a cesna or beach. The plane is used as a lead plane to guide the chemical mix plane to the scene of the fire. The plane is used by the National Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Division of Forestry. A twin engine is necessary because of the degree of danger. The plane is used 500 hours per year. The new plane would be used for limited, justified administrative functions. The \$76,000 would include the cost to the purchasing agent to acquire the plane.

Section I - \$16,000 to the Department of Law Enforcement Assistance for the purpose of purchasing specialized equipment for investigation of controlled substances. The department is requesting 10 radios for their vehicles. \$6,400 to purchase a variety of specialized equipment used in surveillance and case work in their Las Vegas office.

Senator Raggio asked exactly how much of the money would be specifically for surveillance and was informed that it would take \$3,000. All federal funds have been utilized. This is not a yearly request but would last for the next 5 or 10 years.

Section 2 - \$23,273 to the Health Division of the State Department of Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation for purchasing dental equipment for Reno and Las Vegas dental clinics. Dr. Bill Thomason related that \$18,040 of this money would go into the Las Vegas clinic. There are plans underway to destroy the office building in Clark County which houses our dental clinic. In two suites of this building, the dental equipment is not owned by the State. When we move into a new building we will need \$18,000 to replace the equipment we will not be able to assume. The additional \$5,000 will be for replacing dental equipment in our Reno clinic which is quite old and beginning to be costly in maintenance.

Section 3 - \$61,200 to the Health Division of the Department of Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation for the purpose of air and water quality measuring devices for environmental health. Mr. Ernie Gregory spoke on the need for a mobile laboratory for on-the-street monitoring. The cost of this unit would be approximately \$21,000, completely fitted. The other equipment would be technical equipment in the air pollution field such as drying ovens, analysers, calibration equipment, atomic absorption units, portable radiation detection equipment and a portable generator for use in state-wide surveys on air pollution.

Section 4 - \$70,000 to the Mental Hygiene and Mental Retardation Division of the Department of Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation for the purchase of laundry equipment for the Nevada State Hospital. This equipment would replace laundry equipment (6 new items) which is now in excess of 16 years old. The new equipment would consist of: 2 washers, 2 tumblers and 1 steamer. The hospital currently uses 10 paid workers plus numerous patients. Patients should be used to work for therapudic purposes only, and this has turned into using them for production process because of necessity. The new equipment would require less people and would be handled by just the paid workers. The patients would be utilized elsewhere in therapudic processes.

Section 8 - \$143,450 to the Nevada State Prison for the replacement of obsolete equipment at the maximum, medium and women's prison. Beds, mattresses and vocational education programs.

Section 9 - \$200,000 to the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada for making various repairs and performing landscaping, parking and remodeling projects at the University of Nevada, Reno and Las Vegas. Mr. Neil Humphrey and Mr. Don Jessup explained the uses of these funds. The University of Nevada, Reno needs 13 proposed projects, some of which are providing rest rooms, relighting, self teaching laboratories, heating, new pump, Mackey School of Mines needs new rooms, gymnasium showers need to be reworked and a new roof is needed on the fine arts building. This would cost approximately \$117,000. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas needs a new lease in their radiation laboratory \$40,000; plumbing in the science and technology building \$20,000; parking facilities \$30,000; cooling system for the gymnasium \$60,000. This would run approximately \$150,000. Landscaping repairs are also needed at both locations.

Senator Young inquired as to whether these proposed repairs were included in Project 73-U2. He was told that they were in the operating budget rather than in the capital improvements project. The gentlemen realized that the funds requested would not be enough to complete the projects but they have determined their priorities and would go as far as the funds would take them.

Section 7 - \$68,300 to the Department of Agriculture for the purchase of two replacement truck-trailer vehicles to be used in weights and measures program. Mr. Ron Sparks related that the present trucks are 1962 models and that maintenance last year for just one of them ran approximately \$8,000. They need the trucks to test scales in the State, for road construction projects and for other uses by the Department of Weights and Measures. Their highway truck has in excess of 200,000 miles.

Section 10 - \$44,625 to the Buildings and Grounds Division of the Department of Administration for purchasing various equipment for maintenance of state owned and leased buildings and grounds in Carson City, Las Vegas and Reno. \$14,253 for vacuum cleaners, waxers and maintenance of buildings. \$27,372 for hiring temporary employees and purchasing supplies for the legislative buildings and grounds during the 57th legislative Session. \$3,000 to repair the boiler in the Nevada State Museum.

S.B. 119 - to provide for a health facilities specialist in the office of the State Fire Marshall to provide for training of health and care facilities personnel in emergency evacuation procedures. Senator Helen Herr spoke briefly on the bill and read a letter from the Clark County Fire Department which was also signed by an official of the city fire department, urging passage of this bill. Senator Herr stated that the city and the county both put on one man to keep out fire hazards in hospitals and nursing homes. Elko, Ely and Tonapau have this type of facilities. This bill could be enacted without changing the fire marshall's proposed budget.

SJR.4 - proposes to amend Nevada Constitution by removing fish and game fines from state permanent school fund. Mr. Al Bernarda and Mr. Fred Wright emphasized that the fine money last year from just the fish and game portions was \$45,000 and that this money should be used for environmental education. It could be used by the Department of Education rather than the Department of Fish and Game if they are in a position to handle it, but they want to specify that it should be used for educational purposes. Mr. Wayne Capuro also urged adoption of SJR 4 and further that in implementing the program that at a later time, provision be made to give the funds to the Department of Fish and Game for educational purposes rather than the Department of Education.

S.B. 246 - makes appropriation to the Division of Water Resources of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for consultants, environmental and wildlife impact study and Gleason Creek food control project. Mr. Roland Westergard explained the uses of the various sums of money involved in this bill. \$75,000 would help to defray the costs of expert witnesses and geologists. He cited several legal cases. \$50,000 would be for an environmental and wildlife impact investigation for the Humboldt River, upstream storage project and the Rock Creek Dam project. This project would include three dams which would provide water supplies for agricultural use and some fish and wildlife and certain recreational uses. \$50,000 to defray the cost of the Gleason Creek flood control project. The total cost of the project would be approximately \$700,000. The city of Ely would also contribute approximately \$50,000.

S.B. 295 - Makes general funds appropriations for protection and propagation of native fauna and flora. No discussion.

A.B. 176 - Provides a fund within national guard organizations for the use in military activities and affairs and to further community relations. General Edsall's main thrust was on improving initiative within the armories. He stated that they have lost initiative at the local level. He felt that if A.B. 176 were passed, that they would receive at least \$5,000 and in addition to that there would be some monies at the local unit level which would be used for the purpose of bettering of the community. He related that there are

some States which appropriate \$330 to \$500 a year for the unit fund. In the past two years, they have realized from the rental of 10 armories in 1971, \$5,025.99 and in 1972, \$4,969.23. Non profit organizations can acquire use of the armories at a lower rate. Commercial organizations are charged a higher price, and most of the revenue comes from that area. If the money went to the local unit, it would create incentive and the armories could be handled more efficiently.

A.B. 180 - amends the definition of "dependent child" in the Aid to Dependent Children Act. Mr. David Tomlinson stated that AB 180 simply asks for the change of wording to coincide with the federal regulations which were challenged in December of 1971 in the U.S. Supreme Court. His division has been operating under these regulations since December of 1971 because of that Supreme Court order. The people who are included in the change of age (16-18) and the addition of colleges and universities are already included in their ongoing programs. The language clarifies when you can expend federal agency matching funds for foster care. One half of our foster care cases already meet these regulations. Prior to 1969, there was no participation by the federal government in foster care.

BUDGET HEARINGS

Mr. Eric Cronkite and the Committee discussed pages 463, 464 and 570 of the budget books. Mr. Cronkite pointed out that the Governor's budget does call for considerable increases in the budget for the State parks this year and that budget reflects an increase in operating capacity. There are new positions recommended for new and existing park areas. The first position is that of a senior clerk typist to handle the increase in paper work. The second position would be for a person to operate the temporary sewage treatment plant at Lake Tahoe, which during 6 months of the year is a full time operation. The next position is in a maintenance category for the reservoir to some extent up at Lake Tahoe. Because of the growth of facilities in our parks, maintenance is becoming more and more important. There are two more maintenance positions, one of which would be in the Lincoln Park area in Division 5. In Southern Nevada we are becoming involved in Red Rock Canyon. The Governor's budget is recommending staffing for Red Rock Canyon which would include a district supervisor who would be in charge of all activities in Clark County as well as a mechanics helper. That particular position would probably be shared with Red Rock Canyon. We now have an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management whereby even though we do not own the property we are still involved in it. The emphasis in Southern Nevada is the personnel for Red Rock Canyon. This includes park ranger classifications, park maintenance and park district supervisory levels. Those are the positions with the exception of seasonals, who are mainly students whom we employ during their summer vacations. Seasonals would be \$184,000 the first year and \$190,000 the second year. The park fees are now reflected in the general fund. This year there should be \$126,000 in fees and next year we anticipate \$132,000.

Operations Category - The increases are based on increases of park activity, maintenance, new facilities and efforts to bring the State parks system up to a better level of operation. Communication expenses have risen because we are bringing Valley of Fire and Red Rock Canyon into communication. We would also like to have the park vehicles radio equipped for safety and vandalism reasons.

Senator Brown noted the discrepancy between the greatly increased budget request and the small number of new employees.

Mr. Cronkite explained that the employees did not represent the greater expense. The money was needed for maintenance, up-keep and the greater use of the parks by the public.

Contractual services include the use of inmate labor, contracting equipment to clean up boat ramp services, road work - we have to bring in people that have the equipment and know how to do these jobs. The new increase would represent \$3,031 if broken down per park. The equipment breakdown for trucks and some replacement vehicles includes two new areas, Dave Lake and Red Rock Canyon and it includes garbage trucks and packer.

Mr. Cronkite stated that in the Division of Forestry, \$5.00 per day is paid for inmate labor.

Under furniture and equipment is included tools, boats for rescue and clean up (6,000 for two boats).

There was discussion about the number of persons frequenting state parks, for example, over memorial day weekend, 17,000 people used Lake Mohave State Park. The Division of Forestry charges \$2.00 per night for camping, \$1.00 for day use, \$2.00 boat launching, \$15.00 annual for all uses, and \$10.00 annual for days only.

Red Rock Canyon is a significant recreation area for Southern Nevada. The BLM now has jurisdiction. Ther is a priority area and has a \$1.2 million acquisition cost.

Under the \$143,000 for equipment:

76,000 for trucks (4 pick ups, 1 garbage packer, 1 dump truck for the Southern part of the State, 3 pick ups for the Eastern part of the State.)

32,000 for radio equipment - they are currently tied in with the Clark County Sherrif's Office and on a conservation ban.

Mr. Cronkite was asked to return for further discussion of this bill.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Kathleen Johnson
Secretary

APPROVED

Floyd R. Lamb
Floyd R. Lamb
Chairman

ATTENDANCE

Bud Danner - Division of Water
Elmo DeRicco - Department of Conservation
D.T. Tomlinson - Welfare Department
Dan Quinan - State Fire Marshall
Glen Christensen - Fish and Game
W.G. Parsons - Fish and Game
John Richardsen - State Parks
Allen Scott - State Parks
Dave Neusbaum