

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 20, 1975

3-15

The meeting was called ot order at 8:30 a.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman, was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman
Senator William J. Raggio
Senator B. Mahlon Brown
Senator Warren L. Monroe
Senator Clifton Young
Senator Lee E. Walker

OTHERS: Howard Hill, Dir. Department of Motor Vehicles
John McDonald, Department of Motor Vehicles
Ron Stroup, Crime Commission
William Shewan, Highway Department
Ernie Newton, Sec. Taxpayer's Association
Stan Warren, Nevada Bell
Chief James L. Lambert, Nevada Highway Patrol
Tom Cooke, Virginia City Historic Commission
Les Gray, Virginia City Historic Commission
Bill Behrens, Nevada Junior Livestock Show Board
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Cy Ryan, UPI

MICROWAVE SYSTEM

Mr. John McDonald explained the chart depicting the Nevada State Microwave System. Mr. McDonald said the mobile radio users were the Highway Department, the Highway Patrol, Civil Defense, Fish and Game, and the Department of Forestry. He said the Highway Patrol is divided into three main areas, and it is difficult to cover these with UHF radio. Further adding that there is a Civil Defense requirement that each county must coordinate with the State.

Mr. Stroup said that in 1973 the LEEA looked at the Microwave length from Ely to Elko, and approved a \$665,000 grant to aid in completion.

Senator Lamb asked if users will be asked to share costs. Mr. Barrett said that \$119,249 will come in from Civil Defense. Mr. Stroup said that at this time, approximately \$1,200,000 has been invested in the system.

Senators Monroe and Brown were interested if it was possible to tie all the systems into one. Mr. McDonald said that by law, different agencies are required to use different frenquencies. Mr. Shewan said that channels are reserved on the Microwave for county law enforcement users.

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Senator Raggio asked what portion of the General Fund will be used. Mr. Barrett said approximately 10%.

Senator Raggio asked if this system will require a sizeable increase in staff. Mr. McDonald replied that only two technicians will be used to maintain repairs.

Mr. Shewan said that the \$119,249 is needed to put in six more drops.

COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

Senator Raggio asked about the Contractual Services. Mr. Shewan said this is for site location, map surveys, and site improvement.

Senator Gibson asked who the users will be responsible to. Mr. Shewan said to the Board who is made up of user representatives.

Senator Monroe asked about the Overtime. Mr. Shewan said that this is involved in difficult field location repair and maintenance work.

Mr. Newton felt that it should be imperative that a thorough study should be made in order to understand the true goals of the proposed microwave system. Mr. Newton said it wasn't clear whether this was to be a replacement of the mobile radios, or a complete new system.

Senator Brown questioned if two men were really enough to maintain the microwave equipment. Mr. McDonald said that this equipment has a high degree of reliability, and that units are visited only twice a year.

Senator Raggio asked if Mr. Newton's statement of another objective was relevant. Mr. McDonald said that this will include voice and data communications, because the Highway Department requires this. Mr. Shewan said this system will allow the Highway Department to call into the District Office directly from the field.

Senator Monroe said that some groups felt the system was an attempt to replace the Bell Telephone Communications. Mr. Barrett added that Nevada Bell felt this system might be used between State offices instead of the telephone. Mr. Stan Warren said that Nevada Bell is not opposed to improvements of the Mobile Radio service, but does not want the various systems now used in the State to be disrupted.

VIRGINIA CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Mr. Tom Cooke said this is the same budget as the last two bienniums. He remarked that Ed Parsons an architect from Reno helped determine if proposed building changes reflected the historic atmosphere, (Commission covers Lyon, Storey and Carson City). Mr. Cooke said that the old Bell Telephone building has been promised to their care.

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Mr. Les Gray commented that they receive no support from the State Historic Preservation Agency.

Senator Raggio asked if any progress had been made with the outdoor sign problems in these areas. Mr. Gray said by January, '76, all signs not considered to be of historic caliber will be removed.

To Senator Young, Mr. Cooke stated that this commission is not a part of the proposed historic consolidation effort.

NEVADA JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW BOARD

The Committee did not question Mr. Bill Behrens on the Board's budget.

MERIT AWARD BOARD

Mr. Barrett said a Bill is being introduced to change this amount to \$500.

CLEAR CREEK YOUTH CENTER

Mr. Barrett said this is a 250 bed unit at Clear Creek that is used year 'round by various users. Mr. Barrett said there is no charge for the facility, and the users bring their own food and cooking and counseling staff.

Senator Brown asked how many months this is used. Mr. Barrett said on the weekends during the winter, and completely booked during the summer.

Senator Brown asked what were the functions of the Director. Mr. Barrett said he is the Chief of Maintenance and Security.

Senator Young asked where the groups come from. Mr. Barrett said mainly from Washoe and Carson City, but there are a few users from Clark and Lincoln Counties.

RACING COMMISSION

Mr. Barrett said this does not involve any General Fund money.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Mr. Barrett said there are no new positions, and all but the Governor are unclassified.

Senator Gibson asked if the cars were leased. Mr. Barrett said the cars are from the motor pool.

Senator Gibson asked about the rent. Mr. Barrett said this included the new Las Vegas office which has increased space.

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MANSION MAINTENANCE

Mr. Barrett said that these salaries are shown in a lump sum because of the frequent change in positions.

BOND INTEREST AND REDEMPTION

Mr. Barrett said that the Agent Fees were the bank service charges for redeeming coupons, and this probably won't amount to \$5,000. Mr. Barrett read the Program Statement on the bonding capacity which shows the amount of Unused Bonding Capacity. Mr. Barrett said they estimate the interest to be 6 1/2% although this may be high.

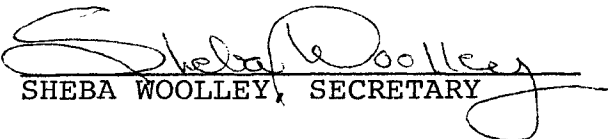
Mr. Barrett said there is a proposal for the issuance of \$3,500,000 of General Obligation bonds to be used as revenue to improve Marlette Lake, and this would be paid for by Carson City. Senator Gibson asked if this included Hobart Lake. Mr. Barrett said it did not. Mr. Barrett said that they are proposing a guaranteed rate to the State by a percentage based on the residential (as opposed to commercial) rate.

CARSON CITY TAXES

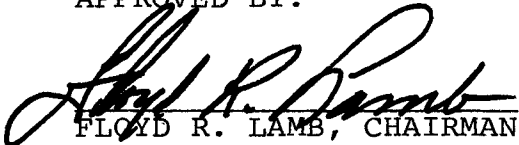
Mr. Barrett said there is a supplemental request in the Assembly for approximately \$43,000 for this budget.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


SHEBA WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED BY:


FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN