



**MINUTES
of the
THREE-HUNDRED-TENTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
August 20, 2007
Santa Fe**

The three-hundred-tenth meeting of the Legislative Council was called to order on Monday, August 20, 2007, at 10:55 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol by Senator Ben D. Altamirano, co-chair.

Present

Senator Ben D. Altamirano, Co-Chair
Representative Ben Lujan, Co-Chair
Senator Kent L. Cravens
Senator Stuart Ingle
Senator Timothy Z. Jennings
Representative Rhonda S. King
Representative W. Ken Martinez
Representative Rick Miera
Senator Leonard Lee Rawson
Senator Michael S. Sanchez
Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton
Representative Thomas C. Taylor
Representative Jeannette O. Wallace

Special Advisory Members Present

Representative Janice E. Arnold-Jones
Representative Donald E. Bratton
Senator Dianna J. Duran
Representative Antonio Lujan
Representative James Roger Madalena
Senator Cisco McSorley
Senator Steven P. Neville
Representative Al Park
Senator H. Diane Snyder
Representative Peter Wirth

Staff

Paula Tackett, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Kathy Pacheco-Dofflemeyer, Assistant Director for Administration, LCS
Raúl E. Burciaga, Assistant Director for Drafting Services, LCS
John Yaeger, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, LCS

Absent

Senator Pete Campos
Senator Carlos R. Cisneros
Representative Daniel R. Foley

Special Advisory Members Absent

Senator Mary Jane M. Garcia
Senator Lidio G. Rainaldi
Senator John Arthur Smith

Jeret Fleetwood, Locator Coordinator, LCS

The minutes of the July 24, 2007 meeting of the council were approved as submitted.

Facilities Review Subcommittee

Ms. Tackett explained to the council that the Facilities Review Subcommittee had met recently and interviewed two contractors regarding the expansion of the Capitol North. She indicated that scores for each contractor would be tallied, but that no results are available yet. Ms. Tackett went on to note that the request for proposals for the Capital North was crafted in such a way as to allow the contractor to verify the preliminary plan to address short-term space needs of the Capitol and Capitol North to determine if expanding the Capitol North is the best way to address the needs of the legislature and legislative staff.

Ms. Tackett went on to address the issue of office keys for legislators to be able to access their office suites. She explained that although legislators had each been provided with key cards that would allow them to open their individual offices, most of the offices are grouped into office suites, and that the doors to those suites are usually locked. Ms. Tackett explained that the insurance policy covering the Capitol would only cover items stolen from a legislator's office or suite if that office or suite is broken into. She went on to explain that if suite doors are left unlocked, stolen valuables may not be covered.

In response to a question from Representative Stapleton, Ms. Pacheco-Dofflemeyer explained that personal property in a legislator's office is not covered by the insurance policy. However, she indicated that since a good deal of art is brought into Capitol offices during the legislative session, a rider is added to that policy that covers it. Ms. Pacheco-Dofflemeyer went on to note that the Risk Management Division of the General Services Department is very particular about what is and is not covered under the insurance policy.

The council had a lengthy discussion about possible solutions to the issue. Council staff was directed to work with the chief clerks' offices to develop options for allowing legislators access to their offices without having to have security or Legislative Building Services open the offices for them.

Staff Classification Title Changes

Ms. Tackett provided the council with proposed changes to the Staff Classification and Compensation Plan: Legislative Finance Committee auditor positions would be changed to performance evaluators and the LCS research and the fiscal policy analyst position would become the legislative fiscal analyst. She explained that the changes better reflect the duties associated with the positions at the LFC and the statutory position of legislative fiscal analyst at the LCS.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the council approved the changes to the staff classification titles.

Redistricting: Block Boundary Suggestion Project

Ms. Tackett explained to the council that phase two of the Block Boundary Suggestion Project gives states the opportunity to submit voting districts to the federal Census Bureau. She noted that this begins the process of converting the state's population data into the actual, identifiable boundaries that make up the units of measurement for redistricting.

In response to a question from Representative Martinez, Ms. Tackett explained that states determine their own basic unit of measurement for redistricting, and that New Mexico has always used voting precincts as theirs. The council discussed several aspects of using voting precincts as the basic unit of redistricting.

On a motion made, seconded and approved, the council authorized the LCS to begin phase two of the Block Boundary Suggestion Project.

Staff Reports

Ms. Tackett noted that New Mexico is hosting a conference of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Legal, Research and Librarian Staff Sections in September.

The council authorized the use of \$25,000 for transportation for conference attendees.

Ms. Tackett informed the council that although the Indian Affairs Committee had scheduled a meeting in Towaoc, Colorado, to meet with the Northern Ute Tribe, the committee is considering postponing the meeting because the tribe had recently sued the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department for taxing oil and gas production on tribal land.

The council authorized the committee to rearrange its schedule to allow for another meeting day at one of its other scheduled meeting locations.

Senator McSorley reminded the council that the Women's Incarceration, Probation and Parole Issues Conference is scheduled in Baltimore on October 20-24. He requested the council to authorize a number of members of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee to attend the conference.

The council authorized travel for four members of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee to attend the Women's Incarceration, Probation and Parole Issues Conference in Baltimore on October 20-24.

There being no further business, the council adjourned at 12:05 p.m.