

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
February 20, 2003

**1. ROLL CALL**

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Senator Taylor, Chairman, Legislative Council, in the Senate Finance Room at the Alaska State Capitol.

The roll was taken. In attendance were Council members: Taylor, Cowdery, Dyson, Ogan, Therriault, Lincoln, Coghill, Kott, Masek, Rokeberg, Stoltze, and Weyhrauch. Absent member was: Berkowitz. Staff present were: Varni, Clothier, Collins, Cook, Huber, Lobaugh, Price and Schofield.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 28, 2003 MEETING MINUTES**

Senator Cowdery moved the minutes of the January 28, 2003 meeting be approved.

With no objection the motion was approved.

**3. APPROVAL OF OFFICE LEASE SPACE – BETHEL AND FAIRBANKS**

Senator Cowdery moved that Legislative Council approve the one-year lease options for existing lease space in Bethel and Fairbanks as reflected in the memo from Pam Varni dated February 14, 2003 be approved.

Discussion followed.

With no objection the motion was approved.

**4. PRESENTATION OF FY 02 LEGISLATURE AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF LEGISLATURE FY 03 AUDIT WITH KPMG**

The Council was presented with the Legislature's FY 02 Audit with no audit exceptions. It was recommended that Council approve the one-year renewal with KPMG for next year's audit.

Senator Cowdery moved that Legislative Council approval the one-year renewal with KPMG for the Legislature's FY 03 Audit.

With no objection the motion was approved.

## **5. DISCUSSION/ADOPTION OF LONGEVITY POLICY**

Pam Varni, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs Agency, explained that the Senate/House Employment Policy, in effect since 1988 has worked well with the exception of the longevity steps of J-M. Ms. Varni summarized the problems over the years with the Longevity Policy in regards to retaining professional long-term staff without penalizing them when they switch ranges because of budget constraints or when the individual Legislator does not have the higher range available to them.

Senator Cowdery moved that Legislative Council not adopt AS 39.27.022 – Pay increments for longevity for state service but instead adopt their own plan which better applies to legislative service. This new policy is before the members and would be effective January 16, 2003.

Discussion followed.

With no objection the motion was approved.

## **6. DON MITCHELL CONTRACT AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

Ted Popely, Project Director, Legislative Council discussed the contract between Legislative Council and Donald Mitchell, explaining the contract would be extended by one-year, terminating on December 31, 2003 with an additional \$50,000.00 added. Mr. Popely, also discussed Mr. Mitchell's credentials and experience with Native and federal law.

Discussion followed.

Representative Stoltze moved that Legislative Council approve the contract amendment for \$50,000.00 with Don Mitchell.

**YEAS:** Taylor, Cowdery, Dyson, Ogan, Therriault, Coghill, Kott, Masek, Rokeberg and Stoltze

**NAYS:** Lincoln and Weyhrauch

**ABSENT:** Berkowitz

Motion passed 10 to 2.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS – IT SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND ANCHORAGE OFFICE SPACE MEMBERSHIP**

Senator Robin Taylor, Chairman, Legislative Council appointed the following to the two Subcommittees:

**ANCHORAGE OFFICE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Senator John Cowdery  
Senator Robin Taylor  
Senator Scott Ogan  
Representative Bill Stoltze, Chairman  
Representative Norman Rokeberg  
Representative Ethan Berkowitz

**IT SUBCOMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS**

Senator Robin Taylor, Chairman  
Senator Gretchen Guess  
Senator John Cowdery  
Senator Georgianna Lincoln  
Representative Beverly Masek  
Representative Pete Kott

**IT SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS**

Schawna Thoma, Senator Ellis' Office  
Linda Hay, Senator Ogan's Office  
Kelly Huber, Senator Taylor's Office  
Annette Skibinski, Senator Cowdery's Office  
Sara Boario, Senator Lincoln's Office  
Judy Ohmer, Representative Kott's Office  
Juli Lucky, Representative Kerttula's Office  
Sharon O'Dell, Representative Kohring's Office  
Ken Erickson, Majority Webmaster  
Peter Stein, Minority Webmaster

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Representative Stoltze discussed a matter regarding a display he had placed on his outer office door in regard to a very modest State approved logo supporting agriculture, a major industry in his district.

Discussion followed.

Senator Taylor, Chairman, Legislative Council, stated that the policy was set through Legislative Council, that items and things not be placed on outer office doors or posted in the building.

Discussion followed.

Senator Taylor, Chairman, Legislative Council, recommended that if any one has questions regarding placement of items or things please contact their Rules Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned 12:30 pm.