

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

October 9, 2006

1. ROLL CALL

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm by Representative Kott, Chairman, Legislative Council, in the Anchorage LIO, 2nd Floor Conference Room and via teleconference.

The roll was taken. In attendance were Council members: Representatives Kott, Gatto, Rokeberg and Senators Davis, Therriault, Wagoner, Wilken. Members via teleconference: Representative Coghill and Senator Ben Stevens. Absent members: Representatives Harris and Weyhrauch and Senator Gary Stevens. Staff present: Varni, Popely, Finley. Staff via teleconference: J. Price, Strong, Banaszak, Tucker, Geary, Billings, Ibesate, Lobaugh, Clothier, Johnston, Bullock, Mischel, Dallas, Lumba, Wayne, D'Souza, Young, S. Price, Teal.

Guest present: Tim Storey, Staff Management Program, NCSL.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2006 MINUTES

Senator Therriault moved Legislative Council approve the minutes of the September 27, 2006 meeting.

YEAS: Kott, Coghill, Gatto, Rokeberg, Cowdery, Ben Stevens, Therriault, Wagoner, Wilken, Davis

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Harris, Weyhrauch, Gruenberg, Gary Stevens

The motion passed 10 – Zero.

REORDER OF AGENDA

Senator Wagoner moved Item number 4 be moved to Item number 3 and Item number 5 be moved to Item number 4 and Item number 3 be moved to Item 5 on the Agenda.

YEAS: Kott, Coghill, Gatto, Rokeberg, Cowdery, Ben Stevens, Therriault, Wagoner, Wilken, Davis

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Harris, Weyhrauch, Gruenberg, Gary Stevens

The motion passed 10 – Zero.

4. CAPITOL COPIER REPLACEMENT APPROVAL

This Item was moved to Item #3.

Jan Price, Procurement Officer, at the request of Legislative Council, compared the purchase of a digital color copier versus outsourcing color duplication services. Jan stated there is currently a State contract for color duplication services. She concluded after reviewing the cost data, that the cost per copy would be less if the Agency owned a color copier. Also, if the Agency owned our own color copier, there was a potential to increase revenue from the Executive Branch.

Pam Varni, Executive Director stated that part of the Printshop's budget is based on program receipts for duplicating Executive Branch requests. In the past, the Printshop has turned down copy requests because we did not have the capability of producing color copies. The Printshop pulls in approximately \$90,000 a year in revenue.

Jan Price added that if the Legislative Council wished to purchase a color copier they would need to go out to bid for the copier or use the State contract. The Executive Branch is currently out to bid for a higher volume statewide color copier. The previous bid could not be used as it has already been awarded for just the black and white copiers.

Representative Kott stated that this item would be held for a future Legislative Council meeting after the Executive Branch Copier Bid opened and these costs were available. The Legislative Council could decide at that time whether or not to go forward with the purchase of a color copier.

5. FAIRBANKS OFFICE SPACE LAWSUIT UPDATE

This Item was moved to Item #4.

Senator Therriault moved to go into Executive Session under Uniform Rule 22 (b) (1), discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a government unit. The Senator asked that the following staff remain in the room to answer questions – Ted Popely, Pam Finley and Pam Varni.

Legislative Council went into Executive Session.

Legislative Council came out of Executive Session.

6. NCSL STUDY OF STAFF CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION APPROVAL

This Item was moved to Item #5.

Senator Therriault moved to adopt the NCSL Study of Staff Classification and Compensation dated September 2006 from the existing Agency budget.

Senator Wilken objected. He recommended that the funds be set aside so that the Legislature would not have to go to the general fund for the lawsuit in Fairbanks and not approve the study at this time. Senator Wagoner stated there are more than sufficient funds to cover the pay raises and felt it was a very comprehensive study by NCSL.

Representative Rokeberg stated he has a problem with retrospective rather than prospective to a certain date in the future. He also stated that comp-time could be handled separately from the range raise adjustment.

Pam Varni, stated that currently the Legislative Affairs Agency comp-time policy only gives employees above a range 13 comp-time for holidays, which includes during the interim unless there is a special session; which is only four holidays or 30 hours. Legislative Finance has a total of 112.5 hours and Legislative Budget and Audit has 150 hours. She stated why we have three different tiers; we could get together with Legislative Council Chair and Budget and Audit Chair and see if we could have one policy that will work for all three agencies.

Representative Rokeberg would like to see the comp-time issue resolved before the next Legislative session. He feels that people are not being adequately compensated for their comp-time.

Senator Wagoner offered an amendment to the motion to make the effective date July 1, 2006. The pay study implementation date would start at the beginning of the fiscal year 2007.

Representative Rokeberg objected.

YEAS: Kott, Coghill, Cowdery, Ben Stevens, Wagoner, Gruenberg, and Davis

NAYS: Gatto, Rokeberg, Therriault and Wilken

ABSENT: Harris, Weyhrauch, and Gary Stevens

The motion failed 7 - 4.

Vote of the original motion made by Senator Therriault.

YEAS: Kott, Coghill, Cowdery, Ben Stevens, Wagoner, Gruenberg, and Davis

NAYS: Gatto, Rokeberg, Therriault and Wilken

ABSENT: Harris, Weyhrauch, and Gary Stevens

The motion failed 7 - 4.

Representative Rokeberg moved to adopt the NCSL Staff Classification and Compensation Study dated September 2006 effective January 1, 2007.

YEAS: Kott, Coghill, Cowdery, Rokeberg, Gruenberg, and Davis

NAYS: Gatto, Therriault, Ben Stevens, Wagoner, and Wilken

ABSENT: Harris, Weyhrauch, and Gary Stevens

The motion failed 6 - 5.

Senator Wagoner moved to adopt the NCSL Study of Staff Classification and Compensation Study dated September 2006 take effective October 1, 2006.

YEAS: Kott, Coghill, Cowdery, Rokeberg, Ben Stevens, Wagoner, Gruenberg, and Davis

NAYS: Gatto, Therriault, and Wilken

ABSENT: Harris, Weyhrauch, and Gary Stevens

The motion passed 8 - 3.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Senator Wilken would like to put on the record his request he made in his email on September 29th regarding the Fairbanks LIO lawsuit that Legislative Council be briefed on it particularly in regards to costs incurred, costs projected and estimates as set out in his email on the 29th, so that members could keep track as we move through that process at each meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.