

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
April 17, 2011
2:34 p.m.

CONTINUATION OF 4/16/11 MEETING.

[2:34:57 PM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Stoltze called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Thomas Jr., Co-Chair
Representative Anna Fairclough, Vice-Chair
Representative Mia Costello
Representative Mike Doogan
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Les Gara
Representative David Guttenberg
Representative Mark Neuman
Representative Tammie Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Reggie Joule

SUMMARY

^FISCAL POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

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Co-Chair Stoltze informed the committee the meeting was a continuation of the April 16, 2011 meeting and that there was one item to discuss.

Vice-chair Fairclough MOVED and asked unanimous consent:

That the House Finance Committee approve the request by the Fiscal Policy Subcommittee for the amount not to exceed \$75,000 in Joint House Finance Committee funds. The purpose of this request is to acquire the

contractual services necessary to complete Phase I of a three-phase project, to gather information for future fiscal planning between the Legislature and Alaska communities.

There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

Vice-chair Fairclough explained that the full House Finance Committee had heard a presentation earlier in the year regarding an effort led by Representative Alan Austerman and participated in by many members of the Finance Committee and other members of the legislature. Subcommittees met over the course of a year in working groups together with the private sector. The requested \$75,000 was for Phase I of a project that the working group estimated would cost a total of \$500,000. She stated that the subcommittee did not need the entire amount at the outset; the purpose of the first phase was to come back to the legislature with something of value before more money was spent. She hoped there would be "meeting in a box" to discuss future choices the state could face with various communities, along with suggestions for solutions. Possible solutions could include resource development and diversification of Alaska's economy, but the first goal was to have conversations with each community with extensive public participation.

Representative Doogan commented that the project was the first phase of something, but in his opinion it was the second phase. He considered the first phase the good deal of work already done over the course of a year by the majority leader and other members and people to determine how to communicate with the people of Alaska about important fiscal questions on a less ad hoc basis.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.