

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 29, 2019
1:30 p.m.

[1:30:02 PM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Wilson called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair
Representative Tammie Wilson, Co-Chair
Representative Jennifer Johnston, Vice-Chair
Representative Dan Ortiz, Vice-Chair
Representative Ben Carpenter
Representative Andy Josephson
Representative Gary Knopp
Representative Kelly Merrick
Representative Cathy Tilton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Bart LeBon
Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Ken McCarty, Appointee, Alaska Mental Health Authority, Board of Trustees; Dan Sullivan, Appointee, Regulatory Commission of Alaska.

SUMMARY

^CONSIDERATION of GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEES:

KEN MCCARTY, ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY,
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DAN SULLIVAN, REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

[1:30:40 PM](#)

AT EASE

[1:32:55 PM](#)

RECONVENED

^KEN MCCARTY, ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

[1:33:16 PM](#)

KEN MCCARTY, APPOINTEE, ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES (via teleconference), discussed his qualifications. He shared that he had resided in Eagle River for the past seven years and had lived in Kodiak for many years prior to that. He had been involved in mental health for his entire career in Alaska and was a licensed marital and family therapist. He was the director of Discovery Cove Recovery and Wellness Center, with nine staff including seven clinicians. The center provided psychiatric services, psychotherapy, and substance abuse treatment.

Mr. McCarty shared that he worked with people who were addicted to opiates. He had been involved with RADACT [Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Training] and had spoken throughout the state on addiction and helping substance use counselors with the program. He had served on a regulatory board for marriage and family therapists for six years and was the past president of the Alaska Association of Marital and Family Therapists. He saw clients in Eagle River and throughout the state. He shared that he was a pilot and could access remote areas to provide services. He added that personal interests included flying, tennis, hunting, and fishing.

[1:35:09 PM](#)

Representative Josephson asked for the number of members on the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA), Board of Trustees and their designations. He asked if Mr. McCarty was looking to fill a public seat on the board.

Mr. McCarty replied that he was an appointee for a trustee position on the AMHTA board. The board had a meeting the previous day and believed there were seven members on the board.

Co-Chair Wilson thanked Mr. McCarty for calling in and for his interest in the board. She relayed that the House

Finance Committee had reviewed the qualifications of the governor's appointee and recommended the name be forwarded to a joint session for consideration. She noted the action did not reflect an intent by any House Finance Committee member to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual during any further sessions. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

[1:36:45 PM](#)

AT EASE

[1:40:01 PM](#)

RECONVENED

^DAN SULLIVAN, REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

[1:40:28 PM](#)

DAN SULLIVAN, APPOINTEE, REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA (via teleconference), reviewed his experiences and qualifications. He shared that he had been serving on the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) for the past month. He had begun his career, in terms of relevant experience, in 1986 when his company the Sullivan Group had represented Marathon Oil and Phillips Petroleum; much of the work had been on statutory and regulatory issues. He highlighted his term on the Anchorage Assembly from 1999 to 2008 where he had interacted with the municipality's two utilities - Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility and the Municipal Light and Power - on a fairly regular basis.

Mr. Sullivan had worked with the two utilities more regularly during his tenure as Anchorage mayor from 2009 to 2015 on their challenges with regulations and statutory issues. From 2003 to 2010 he had served as an appointee under three different governors to the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority board of directors. He explained it was the voter approved gas pipeline project. He discussed extensive work during the seven-year period ranging from everything it took to build a pipeline to making it economical. He believed he had the relevant experience to be effective in the RCA's role of dealing with utility rates and pipeline tariffs.

[1:42:19 PM](#)

Vice-Chair Ortiz queried the duties of the RCA.

Mr. Sullivan replied that the RCA primary dealt with utility rates and pipeline tariffs. He detailed the work included utilities statewide and numerous pipelines including the sub-sea pipeline in Cook Inlet and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). He stated that what the RCA regulated was comprehensive. He emphasized the value of the commission's work. He highlighted the Regulatory Affairs and Public Advocacy (RAPA) under the Department of Law that ensured the public was well served in issues coming before the RCA.

Co-Chair Wilson relayed that the House Finance Committee had reviewed the qualifications of the governor's appointee and recommended the name be forwarded to a joint session for consideration. She noted the action did not reflect an intent by any House Finance Committee member to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual during any further sessions. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

Co-Chair Wilson discussed the agenda for the following Monday. She also noted that Joe Riggs had removed his name from consideration for the AMHTA board of trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

1:44:31 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.