

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

Legislative Office Building, Rooms 210-211

Concord, NH

Thursday, September 26, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner
Rep. Ken Weyler
Rep. Susan Ford
Rep. Lynne Ober
Rep. Peter Leishman
Rep. David Huot (Alt.)
Rep. Erin Hennessey (Alt.)
Rep. Patricia Lovejoy (Alt.)
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro
Sen. Donna Soucy
Sen. Regina Birdsell
Rep. Jay Kahn (Alt.)
Sen. Cindy Rosenwald

(The meeting convened at 10:08 a.m.)

(1) Acceptance of Minutes of the August 28, 2019 Meeting

MARY JANE WALLNER, State Representative, Merrimack County, District #10: I'm going to call the Fiscal Committee to order. And -- hum -- welcome to the September Fiscal Committee meeting. Today, we have a fairly short agenda, and we'll get started. The first item on our agenda today is the acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of August 28th.

****** DONNA SOUCY, State Senator and Senate President, Senate District #18: So move.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Do I have a --

JAY KAHN, State Senator, Senate District #10: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Senator Soucy moved and Senator Kahn second to accept the minutes. All in favor? Any opposed?

REGINA BIRDSELL, State Senator, Senate District #19: I --

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Senator Birdsell wishes to abstain.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Oh, okay. Senator Birdsell wishes to abstain. I believe probably you were not here.

SEN. BIRDSELL: You're right.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(2) Old Business:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Moving on to Old Business. There was an item that we have held for future discussion. Does anyone want that off the table at this time? Seeing none, we'll pass over that, and we'll move right into the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR

(3) RSA 9:16-a, Transfers Authorized and RSA 14:30-a, VI Fiscal Committee Approval Required for Acceptance and Expenditure of Funds Over \$100,000 from any Non-State Source:

(4) RSA 215-A:23, IX and RSA 215-C:39, X Registration Fees and RSA 124:15 Positions Authorized:

(5) Chapter 145, Laws of 2019, (Continuing Resolution):

KEN WEYLER, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #13: Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes, Representative.

**** REP. WEYLER**: Having looked at the six items that are in Tabs 4, 5 and -- 3, 4, 5, all deal with the 3/12th's payroll problem. Having looked them over and seen that they have enough similarity, I would like to move that all six items under Tabs 3, 4, and 5 be approved with one motion.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

September 26, 2019

LYNNE OBER, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #37: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Weyler moves that all the items be approved with one motion and Representative Ober seconds. Any discussion? Anyone have any items that they would like to discuss? Seeing none. All in favor? Any opposed? All those items pass.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: This is going to be the quickest Fiscal Committee meeting in history.

(6) Miscellaneous:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Now we go into Miscellaneous and I know that the Legislative Budget Assistant has an item for us. Thank you, Mr. Shea.

CHRISTOPHER SHEA, Deputy Legislative Budget Assistant, Office of Legislative Assistant: Good morning, Chair, Members of the Committee. My name, for the record, is Chris Shea, Deputy Legislative Budget Assistant. I come before you today to ask permission to fill -- have the authority to fill three vacant positions within our Audit Division. We currently have six vacant positions. We have the lead on two potential hires so we would like to pursue that, and then have the ability to fill an additional position if we were to find a person to do that.

****** REP. OBER: Move to approve.

SEN. PRESIDENT SOUCY: Second.

LOU D'ALLESANDRO, State Senator, Senate District #20:
Second.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

September 26, 2019

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Representative Ober moves to approve and Senator D'Allesandro seconds. Do we have any questions of Mr. Shea concerning the audit position? Seeing none. All in favor? Any opposed? Item passes.

***** {MOTION ADOPTED}**

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Good luck finding three new auditors.

MR. SHEA: Thank you.

(7) Informational Materials:

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Be great. And we have informational items now. Are there any informational items that people would like to discuss? Yes, Senator Rosenwald.

CINDY ROSENWALD, State Senator, Senate District #13: Thank you, Madam Chair. I do have a question on Fiscal Item 269.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Health and Human Services?

SEN. ROSENWALD: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you.

KERRIN ROUNDS, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services: I knew I wasn't going to get away with not coming to the table.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: We always like to see you.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Me, too.

MS. ROUNDS: Good morning.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. That item on Page 5 of 7, the State Opioid Response Grant, down at the bottom of Column J the unexpended funds for contracts are

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

September 26, 2019

\$30 million. I know that \$5 million were approved last week by the Executive Council. Does that mean that \$25 million of the Fiscal Committee approval will not be -- have not been contracted? Where do we stand on -- on all of this federal money?

MS. ROUNDS: So, first, Kerrin Rounds for the record -- sorry -- Chief Financial Officer. So the Commissioner apologizes he wasn't able to be here today or to send anyone. We're currently dealing with a crisis in Manchester as many of you know. So he was not able to come.

So this chart -- I struggled and I went back and forth and had many discussions with Mike Kane on how to present these charts, right, because last time it was on the spending of the -- the Fiscal Committee approval. And this I did it on the spending over the three months, but it doesn't have the encumbrances. So much of this is encumbered. The -- the 35 million represents the grant over the past year. So a lot of the awards, like grants -- the contracts for the Doorways and those types of things would be spent out of this 31 million. So those contracts are also encumbered here. I don't have the encumbrance number with me, but I can get that for you and let you know how much of this 31 million has not been encumbered.

SEN. ROSENWALD: Thank you.

MS. ROUNDS: You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you. Further questions? Seeing no further --

REP. OBER: Madam Chairman.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Yes.

REP. OBER: Could that number just be e-mailed to all of us? Could you get it to the Chair and she can get it to all of us?

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

September 26, 2019

MS. ROUNDS: Sure. Yes.

REP. OBER: I think we'd all like to see it if you don't mind.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Great. Thank you for the suggestion.

MS. ROUNDS: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Thank you, Miss Rounds. Any other? This is just an informational. Oh, Representative Leishman.

PETER LEISHMAN, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #24: Yeah. If I could. Nice to see you. And why haven't these funds been spent or is there something holding back some of these requests that have been made and like the funds have not gone out?

MS. ROUNDS: No, not to my knowledge. I think it's -- part of the reason is that many of the contracts were not executed until the last half of Fiscal Year 19. So the Doorways were contracted, I think, in October, and they began billing in January. So some of it is just -- is timing and when the grant was awarded, and we're not quite a full year into this grant being contracted out yet. We're about a full year from the award, but not from the contracting of it.

REP. LEISHMAN: Thanks. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Any further questions for Miss Rounds? Seeing none. Thank you. It was just an informational item so we don't have to take any action on it. And unless there is further business to come before the Fiscal Committee.

REP. WEYLER: Next meeting.

(8) Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

September 26, 2019

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: The next meeting. I believe the next meeting -- I think we're back -- I think we're back on schedule.

REP. OBER: Oh, yeah!

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: We are. Okay. We are not going to have an October meeting. I think there's going to be a lot of work over at the Department of Administrative Services loading in the budget, and I think we won't be ready for a meeting in October. But we'll be back on schedule and I believe it's November 8th. Friday, November 8th, is the date that we're back on. Most of us had that on our schedule.

REP. OBER: So November 8th.

CHAIRWOMAN WALLNER: Okay. Thank you. Fiscal Committee for September is adjourned.

(Adjourned at 10:14 a.m.)

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE

September 26, 2019

CERTIFICATION

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter-Shorthand, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript from my shorthand notes taken on said date to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and judgment.

Cecelia A. Trask
Cecelia A. Trask, LSR, RMR, CRK
State of New Hampshire
License No. 47

