



REP. MICHAEL OBUCHOWSKI, CHAIR  
SEN. ANN CUMMINGS, VICE-CHAIR  
REP. JANET ANCEL  
SEN. SUSAN BARTLETT  
REP. MARTHA HEATH

REP. MARK LARSON  
SEN. RICHARD SEARS, JR.  
SEN. PETER SHUMLIN  
SEN. DIANE SNELLING  
REP. RICHARD WESTMAN

**STATE OF VERMONT**  
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

**MINUTES**

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Members Present: Senators Bartlett, Cummings, Sears, Shumlin and Snelling.  
Representatives Ancel, Heath, Larson, Obuchowski and Westman.

Other attendees: Senators Mazza and Scott, Representatives Emmons and Myers,  
Joint Fiscal Office and Legislative Council staff.

**1. CONVENE MEETING AND ELECT OFFICERS**

Stephen Klein, Chief Fiscal Officer, of the Joint Fiscal Office called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and asked for nominations of Chair. Senator Bartlett moved to nominate Representative Obuchowski as Chair. Hearing no other nominations, the Committee approved Representative Obuchowski as Chair.

Representative Obuchowski, Chair, then requested nominations for Vice-Chair. Representative Heath nominated Senator Cummings. No further nominations were cast and the Committee approved Senator Cummings as Vice-Chair.

The Chair asked for nominations for Clerk. Representative Westman nominated Senator Snelling. No other nominations were cast and the Committee approved Senator Snelling as the Clerk.

**2. ADOPT RULES OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Chair requested a motion to adopt the Committee rules. Senator Cummings moved the rules and the Committee agreed to adopt them.

**3. APPROVE MINUTES**

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, December 16, 17 and 19, 2008 meetings. Senator Sears moved the minutes and the Committee approved them.

**4. APPROVE BUDGET**

Mr. Klein explained that the proposed Committee budget was just below level funding using a spreadsheet (exhibit 1). Savings were acquired through retirement, and a 5% furlough from employees at or above \$60,000. Mr. Klein explained that Tom Kavet, the Legislative Economist, contract was up this summer and that it was necessary for the

Committee, at a future meeting, to either negotiate the existing contract or to put a contract out to bid. Mr. Klein noted that the Vermont Yankee bill-back authority, for legislative contracted employees, was not included in the budget. An accrued amount of \$420,000 was estimated as a billable amount to Vermont Yankee in 2009. Those billable items are pass-through and not in the Committee's base budget. Mr. Klein offered to send an itemized budget for the Vermont Yankee expenses to the Committee. Representative Heath moved the budget as presented and the Committee approved it.

**5. a. VEPC MODEL CHANGE**

The Chair noted an enclosure to the Committee from Fred Kenney, Executive Director, Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) (exhibit 2) and explained that any new statutory language pertaining to the model needed approval from the Committee. Mr. Klein handed out a memo from Tom Kavet (exhibit 3) analyzing the impacts on the new VEPC model. Senator Sears moved the proposed statutory change. Senator Bartlett inquired whether the committees of jurisdiction have the opportunity to voice their opinions on the proposed language and Senator Cummings pointed out that the proposed language was only technical and not a policy change. The Committee adopted the language.

**5. b. Capital Bill Laboratory Approval**

The Chair referred to an enclosure (exhibit 4) from the chairs and vice-chairs of the House and Senate Institutions Committees. Senator Scott, Chair, Senate Committee on Institutions explained that the forensic laboratory project had been contemplated the last ten years but siting the new laboratory became difficult. Recently the Institutions Committees received new information on an approval to construct an addition to the Department of Public Safety's building in Waterbury. Construction of the laboratory could be shovel-ready in July of 2009 following Committee approval.

Representative Heath commented that she was in favor of the new proposed laboratory plan. Senator Scott also explained that the previous building sited for the lab in Essex would be sold once the market stabilizes. Senator Scott responded to Senator Snellings question that the original price paid for the Essex building was about \$6 million. The Chair requested that the last paragraph of (exhibit 4) reflect the motion before the Committee, with the change that the first line read "The Legislative Joint Fiscal Committee approves the reallocation..." Rep. Westman moved the motion and the Committee adopted it.

**5.c.: DISCUSSION OF STIMULUS PROCESS**

Mr. Klein explained that Congress was in its final negotiations of the stimulus package and the Joint Fiscal Office would analyze and report on the package when it became available.

The Committee adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Theresa Utton-Jerman, Joint Fiscal Office