

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
AGENCIES II SUBCOMMITTEE

March 1, 1979
8:15 A.M.
Room 343
State Capitol Building

Work Session

Tape 5; Side 1, Track 3 (400)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rex Manuel with all members present. Also present were Bob Robinson, LFA; Carolyn Doering, OBPP and Art Carney, Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing.

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING
Central Services (410)

Mr. Carney stated that the subcommittee's appropriation allowed no money for legal services. He estimated that the division would need between \$1,500 and \$2,000 added to the budget to cover these costs.

Private Investigators (420)

The director administers this board and had requested some additional money to hire someone to take over some of the work load. The subcommittee accepted the Executive recommendation; \$2,071 for 1980 and \$2,111 for 1981. This allowed no salary increases and carried over the 1979 authorized level. The cut was in personal services, but will be made up when the new pay plan is approved.

Mr. Carney estimated that he would need an additional \$621 each year. The income to this board is sufficient to take care of this request.

Professional Engineers and Surveyors (479)

The subcommittee cut this budget \$9,000 in 1980 and \$11,000 in 1981 from the department's request. Mr. Carney requested at least another \$5,000 each year to equal the present appropriation. This is an area that is rapidly expanding and Mr. Carney did not feel that the present 1.6 FTE could handle the work load much longer.

Psychologists (535)

Mr. Carney stated that this board was cut about \$2,000 each year. He stated that potential hearings could wipe out their entire appropriation. The subcommittee was requested to reconsider their appropriation in anticipation of these hearings.

The board was allocated \$3,903 for 1980 and \$3,857 for 1981 which was the Executive recommendation. Of this, \$446 in 1980 and \$453 in 1981 goes to centralized services. Mr. Carney stated that the department request was \$4,437 for 1980 and \$4,233 for 1981.

Veterinarians (624)

Mr. Carney stated that this board was cut about \$2,000 each year. The total appropriation, including money to centralized services was \$13,213 for 1980 and \$12,849 for 1981. This was the Executive recommendation and was what the department asked for in operating expenses. The reduction was related to a modification in 1981. The appropriation amounted to a 20% increase over last year's expenses.

Mr. Carney stated that there are some legal problems which he expects will carry over into this biennium, and therefore, requested this additional money.

Warm Air Heating (645)

There was a discussion of this board, which was eliminated and what will happen to the current balance in their earmarked account.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

System 6/450 Information Processor (775)

Bill Opitz, Madeline Cottrill and Jim Williams were present on behalf of the department.

Mr. Opitz presented a comparison of purchase versus leasing costs of the System 6 machine. He stated that to purchase the machine would cost \$977.17 more for the biennium, to include a processing feature. Without this feature the cost would be \$264.67 more. There is an annual maintenance charge of \$2,016.

The appropriation approved by the subcommittee is \$10,348 per year. Mr. Opitz suggested moving \$8,332 from the 1981 appropriation to the 1980 budget. \$977.17 would have to be added to the 1980 appropriation if the subcommittee approves the added feature. Without the feature the added amount would be \$264.67.

Personal Services (785)

Mr. Opitz stated that the 14.25% fringe benefits approved by the subcommittee will not be enough. He cited last pay period where the fringe benefits totaled 15.76%. This is 2.5% higher than the appropriation for the next biennium and Mr. Opitz anticipated further increases for 1980 and 1981. He estimated that the department would be about \$15,000 short on fringe benefits.

Mr. Opitz also felt that a 4% vacancy savings was unrealistic. He cited 4 positions in the transportation division which he will not be able to fill until July 1, due to accumulated vacation pay and sick leave.

Mr. Opitz was also concerned with the subcommittee's request that vacancies in the transportation division be replaced in the utilities division. He appreciated the subcommittee's acknowledgment of the under staffing in this area but feared that this would only serve to create the same problem in the transportation division. He did not feel that this would be a feasible plan.

Mr. Opitz referred to a recent Supreme Court decision ruling in favor of the commission. This could amount to about \$3 million in savings to the consumer. In order to conduct an audit, the commission is requesting \$300,000 because the ruling says that the utilities cannot be charged this fee. Mr. Opitz felt they had a good case, they just need the money to pursue the problem.

The department has no further problems, this ended the hearing of the Department of Public Service Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Centralized Services (914)

The department has received two grants totaling \$132,242 for 1980 and \$106,613 for 1981 which they did not have at the time of their original request. Therefore, they are requesting an additional appropriation of those amounts to be added to centralized services.

This grant was formerly administered by Nebraska and was recently transferred to Montana.

Representative Manning made the motion to authorize these grants and money to centralized services. Representative Hurwitz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Senator Boylan was not present for this vote.

The Crop reporting program has also requested another \$2,200 to meet inflation costs of publishing their statistics bulletin. The subcommittee has already authorized \$5,000 for this purpose.

Representative Manning made the motion to add \$2,200 to the appropriation. Senator Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Hail Insurance (1010)

The board has requested that \$2,823 for 1980 and \$2,800 for 1981 be provided from Old West Regional Commission Funds. They have also requested that \$1,600 for 1980 and \$1,650 for 1981 be provided from general fund. The total amount of dollars appropriated will remain the same. The general fund will be transferred from central

services.

Representative Manning made the motion to accept this request. Senator Boylan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Environmental Management (1028)

The program has requested that an addition \$9,557 for 1980 and \$5,365 for 1981 general fund be provided to replace earmarked funds. This would be an increase in the general fund appropriation.

Senator Stimatz made the motion to accept this request. Representative Manning seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Plant Industry (1059)

The program has requested another \$10,000 from the general fund for overtime expenses. The committee accepted the LFA recommendation which kept them at last year's level. The LFA recommended this totally from the earmarked funds. Bob Robinson suggested that the subcommittee could just transfer \$7,500 from earmarked funds to general fund. This would keep them at current level.

Representative Hurwitz made the motion to appropriate \$7,500 from general fund and subtract the amount out of the earmarked funds. Senator Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

The department has requested an FTE with \$15,700 for 1980 and \$15,900 for 1981 to take care of bills of sale related to Senate Bill 86.

Representative Hurwitz made the motion to accept this FTE and the money requested for both years. Representative Manning seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.



REP. REX MANUEL, Chairman

Secretary