



LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

61st Montana Legislature

Room 110 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

SENATE MEMBERS

KEITH BALES
STEVE GALLUS
DAVE LEWIS
RICK RIPLEY
DAVID WANZENRIED
CAROL WILLIAMS

HOUSE MEMBERS

WILLIAM GLASER
CYNTHIA HINER
GALEN HOLLENBAUGH
LLEW JONES
JON SESSO
JANNA TAYLOR

CLAYTON SCHENCK, Lead Staff
DIANE MCDUFFIE, Secretary

MINUTES

Please note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Committee tapes are on file in the offices of the Legislative Services Division. **Exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.**

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. The minutes are accompanied by an audio recording. For each action listed, the minutes indicate the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This time may be used to locate the activity on the audio recording.

An electronic copy of these minutes and the audio recording may be accessed from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side column of the home page, select *Committees*, then *Interim*, and then the appropriate committee.

To view the minutes, locate the meeting date and click on minutes. To hear the audio recording, click on the Real Player icon. Note: You must have Real Player to listen to the audio recording.

Monday, October 26, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. KEITH BALES
SEN. RICK RIPLEY
SEN. DAVE LEWIS
SEN. CAROL WILLIAMS

REP. WILLIAM GLASER
REP. CYNTHIA HINER
REP. GALEN HOLLENBAUGH
REP. LLEW JONES
REP. JON SESSO
REP. JANNA TAYLOR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

SEN. STEVE GALLUS
SEN. DAVE WANZENRIED

STAFF PRESENT

Clayton Schenck, Lead Staff
Diane McDuffie, Secretary
Gregory Petesch, Code Commissioner, LSD
Kelly DaSilva, Human Resource Officer
Cathy Duncan, Fiscal Analyst
Roger Lloyd, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Greg DeWitt, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Kris Wilkinson, Fiscal Analyst
Lois Steinbeck, Senior Fiscal Analyst

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:23:00 Llew Jones, Chairman called the 210th meeting of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) to order at 12:00 pm. The conference call was held in hearing room 102 of the State Capitol, Helena Montana. The secretary noted the roll. (Attachment #1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

00:33:00 **Chairman Jones** explained the purpose of this meeting is to approve a recommendation from the LFA Recruitment Subcommittee for the LFA positions. He told the committee if at any point they wish to discuss personal issues regarding the candidates the meeting will be closed to the public.

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION OF LFA SELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

00:34:19 **MOTION:** Rep. Hollenbaugh moved the full committee approve the recommendation of Amy Carlson to replace Clayton Schenck, LFA.

00:35:43 **Sen. Ripley** said the subcommittee asked every candidate the same questions and evaluated them on the merits of how they answered the questions and the resumes provided. It was not a unanimous recommendation but it was a fair process. He recommended the committee support the motion by the chairman of the subcommittee and support the subcommittee as a whole.

00:36:44 **Rep. Taylor** stated she supports the subcommittees recommendation but felt the subcommittee should first consider candidates within the division and give extra weight to the experienced staff within.

00:38:09 **Sen. Williams** thanked the subcommittee for their hard work and time put into the process and she supports their decision.

00:39:03 **Sen. Bales** said he also supports the nomination but expressed concern regarding quotes in the newspaper attributed to the chairman of the subcommittee.

00:40:12 **Rep. Hollenbaugh** stated that the subcommittee did its best to review all of the resumes and it was a tough decision between an external candidate and internal candidate. Despite what might be read into the quotes that were attributed to him, this selection was in no way made to diminish what staff does for the legislature or cast dispersions on anybodies reputation. He said he decided to go with the external candidate based upon the fact that the legislature has had a continuing rupture of efforts to get a budget passed. It was his hope that an external candidate and using outside experience will help achieve more of a consensus between the legislature and the governor's office in the next session, "so we don't give off the perception that all we do is fight rather than to understand and build the best budget possible".

00:43:32 **Rep. Glaser** said the members of the subcommittee was interested in the best candidate to be the leader of the Finance Committee and the best interest of the appropriations process. He said there wasn't much bias involved in the decision and is pleased with the way staff works and expects staff to move forward and do an excellent job in the future. He hopes Ms. Carlson will have the wisdom to get the most out of staff for the 150 legislators that they work for.

00:48:09 **Chairman Jones** dismissed the subcommittee from their duties.

00:48:49 **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Motion passed 10 yes 0 nos. **Senators Wanzenried and Gallus** were not present. (Exhibit 1)

00:52:10 **Chairman Jones** welcomed Aryn to the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD). He commented that she has a strong background from her years of service to Montana and will be an asset to the LFD. As the chairman and a member of the legislature, he said he looks forward to working with her. In speaking with Amy, she is very cognizant of the quality staff she will be head of and recognizes the challenge of working for 150-member Legislature. He thanked Clayton for his willingness to help transition Amy in her new role and in helping the LFD become a powerful asset to the legislature and to Montana. Clayton's insight and candor will be missed. **Chairman Jones** also thanked the hiring committee and LFD staff

for their professionalism during this process.

DISCUSSION OF TRANSITION PROCESS

00:52:29 Clayton Schenck, LFA assured the committee that the transition process is off and running. He has met with Amy and is committed to making this as complete and thorough as possible. Amy will complete her work in the budget office on November 20 and begin in the LFD on November 23.

ADJOURNMENT

00:54:29 The meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Llew Jones, Chairman

Diane McDuffie, Committee Secretary
