



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

JULY 28, 2008

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Representative Nancy Dahlstrom, Vice-Chair, in the Senate Finance Room and via teleconference.

1. ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. In attendance were Council members: Representatives Dahlstrom, Coghill, Harris, Samuels, Stoltze, Wilson, and Guttenberg; Senators Cowdery (via teleconference), Davis, Elton, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, and Wilken.

Staff present: Varni, Bressette, Schofield, Cook, Ibesate, and Lesh.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Senator Lyda Green informed the Council of Senator John Cowdery's resignation as Chair of Legislative Council due to health reasons and nominated Senator Kim Elton as the Chair of Legislative Council and asked for unanimous consent and that the nominations be closed.

YEAS: Dahlstrom, Coghill, Harris, Samuels, Wilson, Guttenberg, Elton, Cowdery, Davis, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, and Wilken

NAYS: None

Senator Elton was elected Legislative Council Chairman by a vote of 13-0.

Senator Elton advised the Council that Kristen Bressette would be his staff to Legislative Council.

3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 17, 2008 MINUTES

Representative Dahlstrom moved Legislative Council approve the minutes of the June 17, 2008 Council meeting as presented.

YEAS: Dahlstrom, Coghill, Harris, Samuels, Wilson, Guttenberg, Elton, Cowdery, Davis, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, and Wilken

NAYS: None

The motion passed 13-0.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council delegate their authority to the Council Chairman to solicit, award and expend Legislative Council funds in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the purpose of contracting for legal services to investigate the circumstances and events surrounding the termination of former Public Safety Commissioner Monegan, and potential abuses of power and/or improper actions by members of the executive branch, and prepare a report. Senator Hollis French will serve as the Project Director for the contract.

It is the intent of the Legislative Council that the investigation be professional, unbiased, independent, objective, and conducted at arm's length from the political process. The report shall be submitted to the Legislative Council, Senate Judiciary Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee in a timely manner.

Senator Elton asked for questions on the motion.

Discussion followed.

Representative Stoltze joined the meeting at this time.

Senator Elton recognized that the following Legislators were present in the room in addition to the Legislative Council members: Senators French, Ellis, and Therriault, and Representatives Kelly, Olson, and Ramras.

Senator Davis offered an amendment that would strike the language "... Senate Judiciary Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee ..." from the motion.

Discussion followed.

Senator Elton offered a friendly amendment that would change the last sentence of the original motion to read as follows: "The final report shall be submitted to the Legislative Council in a timely manner."

Roll call was taken on the amendment.

YEAS: Dahlstrom, Coghill, Harris, Stoltze, Wilson, Guttenberg, Elton, Davis, Green, Stevens, and Wilken

NAYS: Samuels

The amendment passed 11-1.

Roll call was taken on the motion as amended.

YEAS: Dahlstrom, Coghill, Harris, Samuels, Stoltze, Wilson, Guttenberg, Elton, Davis,
 Green, Stevens, and Wilken

NAYS: None

The motion passed 12-0.

Senator Elton requested the minutes reflect that the Governor instructed her employees to cooperate as fully as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.