

MINUTES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 20, 1994

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The July 20, 1994, meeting of the Administration Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order by Chairperson Senator William Palmer at 11:08 a.m., in Room 22 of the State Capitol Building. Members of the Committee who were present in addition to Chairperson Palmer were as follows:

Senator Florence Buhr
Senator Maggie Tinsman
Representative Pam Jochum
Representative Mary Lundby
Representative Brent Siegrist

Senator Buhr moved that the minutes of the June 15, 1994, Committee meeting be approved as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

UPDATE ON FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY ISSUES

Chairperson Palmer noted that the Legislative Council at its June 15 meeting had approved recommendations of the Administration Committee for authorizations for funding under sections 2.43 and 2.12 for completion of fire, life safety, and accessibility projects in the State Capitol. He introduced Mr. Ralph Oltman, Department of General Services, who introduced Mr. Ron Bussard from RDG Bussard Dikis, Inc. to explain the schedule for the first phase of the rehabilitation of the State Capitol Building. Mr. Bussard explained that Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements are scheduled to be completed by December 23, 1994, and fire safety improvements are scheduled to be completed by January 15, 1995.

A discussion ensued relating to the process for bidding of the projects and the feasibility of moving the lactation room from the office of the Executive Secretary of the Executive Council to the women's lounge on the ground floor of the Capitol Building. Chairperson Palmer made a motion to recommend to the Legislative Council that the Department of General Services consider relocating the lactation room to the women's lounge during the scheduled access renovation of the women's lounge. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved on a voice vote.

Representative Lundby expressed concern that the scheduled completion date for the fire safety improvements is several days after the commencement of the 1995 Legislative Session. Mr. Bussard responded that some of the work will not be disruptive but that the Department would take the start of Session into account.

Mr. Bill Dikis of RDG Bussard Dikis discussed the fact that the market for construction contractors is very saturated in the Des Moines area and that this may impact on the costs of bidding the projects. He suggested that the Committee could direct the Department of General Services to negotiate contracts for the work rather than bid it, to defer the bidding process, or provide alternatives to lower the costs of the projects if the bids are higher than the budget. Chairperson Palmer and Representative Lundby both expressed concern that the projects be bid rather than negotiated. Chairperson Palmer suggested that once the bids are received, recommendations can be provided at the September 13th Administration Committee meeting as to how to proceed. Mr. Oltman stated that the bids could provide for an itemized listing of the proposed costs for each improvement which could be presented to the Committee on September 13 and from which the Committee could make decisions. The Committee agreed.

The Committee discussed installation of a sprinkler system for the State Capitol and the subsequent problems with removing the intermediate flooring that has been installed during the last 25 years. Mr. Bussard stated that there will be flexibility in installing the sprinkler system and that the basic service can be in place without removing the intermediate floors. He explained that the sprinkler project would be less expensive if it were all done at once and offered a cost estimate of \$1.9 million. Senator Buhr suggested that the sprinkler system be installed in terms of zones of areas in the Capitol rather than in terms of priorities. Chairperson Palmer requested that the Department of General Services provide the Committee with an itemization of sprinkler installation costs by central service unit and building zones. The Department agreed to do so.

UPDATE ON ADA ISSUES

Ms. Diane Bolender, Director, Legislative Service Bureau, provided the Committee with a report from the ADA Staff Committee concerning assistive listening device equipment which was purchased as approved by the Legislative Council at its June meeting.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT REPORT

Mr. Tony Crandell, Department of General Services, introduced Mr. Steve Gassman from ADI Systems who explained the telecommunications consultant report for installation of video conferencing equipment which would provide access to the Iowa Communications Network within existing legislative committee rooms in the State Capitol. Mr. Crandell explained that the cost for providing the initial room is estimated at \$76,745.41 with the estimated cost for each additional room at \$56,187.86 and that installation of this equipment will allow legislators to participate in meetings without coming to Des Moines to do so. Members of the Committee living outside of Des Moines commented on how beneficial this could be. Chairperson Palmer

asked how long it would take to complete and Mr. Crandell answered that it would be only 45 to 60 days. Chairperson Palmer suggested that the Committee continue to review the issue and determine whether to make a recommendation to the Legislative Council at the Administration Committee's September meeting.

CAPITOL EXTERIOR ISSUES

Speaker Harold Van Maanen provided the Committee with information regarding completion of the current phase of restoration of the exterior of the State Capitol. He explained that he had been informed that the contractor could not guarantee completion of the installation of the stone already purchased for the northwest pavilion of the building during the current interim before inclement weather sets in, and he suggested that moneys remaining in the account be used to purchase additional stone rather than proceeding with work at this time. In addition, Speaker Van Maanen noted that if exterior work is commenced and not finished, the scaffolding would have to be removed during the winter months and reconstructed next spring which is expensive to do. Speaker Van Maanen explained that the General Assembly would need to appropriate moneys in January 1995 to ensure that construction could begin in March and be completed in 1995. Senator Tinsman made a motion to use the moneys in the account to purchase additional stone, but later withdrew her motion. After much discussion, the Committee agreed to postpone recommendations and await legislative action early in the 1995 Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie A. Smith
Legal Counsel