

## EMERGENCY COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, September 7, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol – Governor’s Conference Room  
600 East Boulevard Avenue Bismarck ND 58505

### MINUTES

Governor Burgum called a meeting of the Emergency Commissioner to order at 10:02 a.m. on September 7, 2023.

Members present were: Governor Doug Burgum, Secretary of State Michael Howe, Representative Don Vigesaa, Senator Brad Bekkedahl, Representative Mike Lefor, and Senator David Hogue. A quorum existed throughout the meeting.

Also in attendance for the meeting were: Susan Sisk, Office of Management and Budget Director; Liz Parent, Erika White, and Beth Herzog, Office of the Secretary of State; Cody Volk and Jackie Huber, Office of the Adjutant General Adjutant General; Alison Widmer, Commerce; Laurie Matzke, Department of Public Instruction; Doug Goehring, Agriculture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture; Darin Hanson, Department of Emergency Services; and Jace Beehler, Office of the Governor.

Ms. Sisk provided a summary of Commission authority for the 2023-2025 biennium, prior to consideration of current requests, and OMB approval recommendations.

**1. North Dakota Department of Commerce \* (Request # 2101)**

Request line-item transfer authority of \$1,550,000 from the Grants line to the Operating Expenses line. This line-item transfer is a correction from the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session where the appropriation was put in the grants line by mistake. The proper line item is the operating line. This federal funding authority is for projects that support travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors. Each state was awarded an amount based on estimated lost visitors during the pandemic.

Upon motion duly made by Secretary Howe and seconded by Representative Vigesaa, the North Dakota Department of Commerce request #2101 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

**2. Secretary of State \* (Request # 2102)**

Request spending authority of \$462,135 of federal funding to the Election Reform line. This funding will be used to support North Dakota’s ability to improve the voting process for absentee voters, specifically related to a secure ballot delivery portal for Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) population. North Dakota represents over 2,500 eligible UOCAVA voters in the state’s 53 counties. UOCAVA voters traditionally have a lower voting percentage than domestic voters.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Senator Bekkedahl, the Secretary of State request #2102 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

**3. Department of Public Instruction \* (Request # 2103)**

Request spending authority of \$851,338 of federal funds from the operating line and spending authority of 3,180,000 of federal funds in the Other Grants line for State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula (SAEF). This federal grant will provide funding to universities for a registered teacher apprenticeship for paraprofessionals to become teachers. This grant supports the state’s priority of addressing the teacher shortage. No state funding is required. The grant goes through June 2026. If there are any unused funds this biennium, it would be carried over into the next biennium.

Upon motion duly made by Secretary Howe and seconded by Senator Hogue, the Department of Public Instruction request #2103 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

**4. Adjutant General (Request # 2104)**

Request spending authority of \$7,425,000 of federal funds and spending fund authority of \$1,170,000 of Bank of North Dakota Loan Special funds to the Disaster Costs line. These funds will cover the state cost share for spring flooding for the period of April 10 through May 6, 2023. North Dakota experienced seasonal snowfall records in 58 locations throughout the state which attributed to flooding causing significant damage to roads, culverts, and other infrastructure. There was a disaster declaration for 21 North Dakota counties. This request includes two disaster programs through FEMA, the Public Assistance Program, and the Hazard Mitigation Program. Overall cost to the state is 14% (1,170,000).

Upon motion duly made by Senator Bekkedahl and seconded by Secretary Howe, the Adjutant General request #2104 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

**5. Adjutant General \* (Request #2105)**

Request spending authority of \$111,379.64 of Contingency Funds to the Disaster Costs line. Due to a calculating error, six discrepancies were identified in snow removal grants that were authorized in SB 2183 which appropriated \$20,000,000 of emergency snow removal grants to tribal governments, counties, cities, and townships. Payments were made prior to June 30, 2023, but since then, miscalculations were discovered. The six errors resulted in owing an additional \$111,379.64. This request would provide the proper funds to the entities that have been authorized to receive the grant funding.

Upon motion duly made by Secretary Howe, Senator Hogue requested an amendment to the motion to include the city of Carson, Wells County, and Wells County townships. Discussion added this as an action item for the Division of Emergency Services to follow-up and provide further information at a future meeting. Senator Hogue withdrew his motion to the table.

Secretary Howe's original motion was seconded by Representative Lefor, the Adjutant General request #2105 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

**6. Adjutant General \* (Request #2106)**

Request spending authority of \$515,000 of federal funds in the Capital Assets line. Additional federal authority is required to include design authority to complete construction of a bridge training site at Camp Grafton Training Center. The Office of the Adjutant General received federal authority through the agency's appropriation bill (HB 1016) during the 67<sup>th</sup> legislative assembly, and carryover authority in SB 2016 during the 68<sup>th</sup> legislative assembly to construct the bridge training site. Completion of this project would make Camp Grafton as the only National Guard training site with the capability to train on every bridge in the Army inventory.

Upon motion duly made by Secretary Howe and seconded by Senator Bekkedahl, the Adjutant General request #2106 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

**7. Adjutant General \* (Request #2107)**

Request spending authority of \$5,300,000 of federal funds from the Capital Assets line for completion of the Dickinson Readiness Center project. The project was rebid on June 7, 2023, and the bids received were significantly higher than the projected \$24,100,000. Additional federal fund spending authority is necessary to complete the project.

Upon motion duly made by Secretary Howe and seconded by Representative Vigesaa, the Adjutant General request #2107 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

**8. Adjutant General \* (Request #2108)**

Request spending authority of \$2,000,000 of federal funds from the Capital Assets line to complete construction of the Camp Grafton fitness facility. SB 2016 from the 68<sup>th</sup> legislative session appropriated \$9,000,000 of federal state fiscal recovery funds (ARPA) for the construction of the fitness facility at Camp Grafton. Based on current construction costs, more federal fund spending authority is needed to complete the project.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Bekkedahl and seconded by Secretary Howe, the Adjutant General request #2108 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

**9. North Dakota Department of Agriculture \* (Request #2109)**

Request spending authority of \$61,650 of federal funds from the Salary and Wages line, spending authority of \$6,110 of federal funds from the Operating Expenses line, and spending authority of \$2,277,380 of federal funds from the Grants line for a Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. The ND Department of Agriculture (NDDA) plans to develop and administer coordinated initiatives to middle-of-the-food-supply-chain in the state. Funds will support expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, and other food products. NDDA will create more and better processing options for eligible entities and farm businesses, and other sectors by targeting gaps and opportunities to support the agriculture supply chain.

Upon motion duly made by Secretary Howe and seconded by Senator Hogue, the Department of Agriculture request #2109 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Howe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Howe  
Secretary of State  
Secretary, Emergency Commission