

EMERGENCY COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday November 28, 2023 – 1:30 p.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 1:33 p.m. on November 28, 2023.

Members present were: Governor Doug Burgum, Secretary Michael Howe, Senator Jerry Klein, Representative Don Vigesaa, Senator Brad Bekkedahl, and Representative Glenn Bosch. A quorum existed throughout the meeting.

Also in attendance for the meeting were: Susan Sisk, Office of Management and Budget Director; Sandra McMerty, Liz Parent, Erika White, and Sherri Heinert, Office of the Secretary of State; Bill Peterson, State Historical Society; Major Aaron Hummel and Captain Adam Dvorak, ND Highway Patrol; 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.

Note: According to the provisions of N.D.C.C., Chapter 54-16, approved requests marked with an asterisk will be forwarded to the Legislative Budget Section committee for its meeting on December 13, 2023.

1. **State Historical Society of North Dakota (Request # 2110)**

Request increase spending authority in the salaries and wages line of \$46,460 and an increase in the operating expenses line of \$3,540. The State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) is the repository for archaeological collections in the state of North Dakota, and currently houses collections from approximately 623 cultural resource sites managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The collections are stored in approximately 103 boxes and vary in size and complexity. The collection did not meet state or federal curation standards, and most of the records associated with the collection are not available in digital format; therefore, they are not consistent with the current agency direction to ensure that the official copy, or copy of record, be digital. This funding would bring the collections to current SHSND and Federal curation standards.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Bekkedahl and seconded by Representative Bosch, the State Historical Society request #2110 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Klein, Bosch, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, and Burgum. Secretary Howe's vote yes was noted in Microsoft Teams through Sandra McMerty.

2. **Office of Secretary of State * (Request # 2111)**

Request increase spending authority in the election reform line of \$145,425. As part of FY 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program, North Dakota is required to submit an investment for enhancing election security of 3%. As required, the Department of Emergency Services inquired if there were any potential projects North Dakota could submit as part of the state's application for DHS consideration to meet this requirement. The Secretary of State has several plans including a public awareness and preparedness campaign to discuss election security and integrity measures. This effort is to increase voter confidence and awareness of the protocols and processes that ensure the security of North Dakota elections. These funds seek to establish training protocols and education materials for election officials and volunteer workers, to grow consistency of best practices, protocols, and knowledge for proper election administration.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Vigesaa and seconded by Senator Bekkedahl, the Secretary of State request #2111 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Klein, Bosch, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

3. Office of Secretary of State * (Request # 2112)

Request transfer authority of \$200,000 of general funds from the election reform line to the state's election fund to meet Help America Vote Act (HAVA) interest bearing requirements. During the 2023 regular session, the legislature approved receipt of \$1,000,000 of federal HAVA funds along with a \$200,000 general fund match. These funds must now be transferred to the state election fund to meet interest bearing requirements. As was testified before the legislature, the HAVA funds and match dollars supports the state's responsibility for election administration for federal office and maintain voting systems.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Klein and seconded by Representative Bosch, the Secretary of State request #2112 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Klein, Bosch, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

4. North Dakota Highway Patrol * (Request # 2113)

Request increase spending authority of federal funds from the Body Worn Camera Program Enhancements line of \$500,000. The North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) is seeking \$500,000 in additional federal spending authority for a grant from the US Department of Justice to use for body camera related storage, state's attorney portal, digital uploading capabilities in rural areas, and training. This does not require any matching funds. The grant application and award process did not align with the legislative session. Notice of grant award was provided to the NDHP in September.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Bekkedahl and seconded by Representative Vigesaa, the North Dakota Highway Patrol request # 2113 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were: Klein, Bosch, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, 5

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

Michael Howe
Secretary of State
Secretary, Emergency Commission