

EMERGENCY COMMISSION MEETING

March 11, 2024 – 1:00 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 1:01 p.m. on March 11, 2023.

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

Also in attendance for the meeting were: Susan Sisk, Office of Management and Budget Director; Sandra McMerty and Sherri Heinert, Office of the Secretary of State; Jace Beehler, Tammy Miller, and Maria Neset, Office of the Governor. Allen Knudson, Legislative Council. Alan Dohrmann, Adjutant General. Justin Messner Adjutant General Office. Chris Jangula, DOCR. Jamie Metz, DPI.

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 March 20, 2024.

1. Department of Public Instruction * (Request # 2114)

Request line-item transfer from the Grants-other grants line to the Emergency Ed Relief-School line of \$85,000,000. The legislature granted DPI the authority to carryover COVID-related federal funding, however, the amount DPI previously transferred out of the COVID line was overlooked. This request is a correction so DPI may pay ESSER claims to school districts for the remainder of the biennium. School districts will receive this funding for learning loss, summer programs, and other expenditures.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Secretary Howe, the Department of Public Instruction request #2114 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

2. Office of Management and Budget * (Request # 2115)

Request increase in line-item spending authority for Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Funds (GEER) in the amount of \$399,500. The Office of Management and Budget is the fiscal agent for GEER. There is currently federal authority in the OMB budget for this program, however the grants from last biennium were not fully expended. With North Dakota’s severe teacher shortage, the Governor’s Office has granted these funds to the Education Standards and Practices Board to allow a teacher mentoring program to first and second year teachers. The program assigns a mentor to assist the first year and second year teachers, and the grant provides stipends for the mentors.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Bekkedahl and seconded by Secretary Howe, the Office of Management and Budget request #2115 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

3. School for the Deaf (Request # 2116)

Request line-item spending authority of \$1,050 for the purchase of two kidney shaped whiteboard activity tables for classroom use. The School for the Deaf was awarded this grant from the Devils Lake Area Foundation. NDCC 25-07-06 states the school for the deaf shall provide special education and related services designed to meet the unique needs of a child who is deaf or hearing impaired, in accordance with the child’s individual education program.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Hogue and seconded by Secretary Howe, School for the Deaf request #2116 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

4. ND Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation * (Request # 2117)

Request for a line-item transfer from the Deferred Maintenance and Extra Repairs line to the Adult Services line in the amount of \$275,771 due to inflationary costs. HB 1015 appropriated one-time funding of \$1,550,000 for the construction of a new James River Correctional Center maintenance shop in Jamestown. A bid was submitted for \$1,825,771 during the procurement process. That increase is attributable to inflation. DOCR is asking to move funding from another approved project to help fund the building project. This would leave funding unavailable for the demolition of Devine Hall on the Youth Correctional Center campus.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Hogue and seconded by Secretary Howe, ND Department of Correction & Rehabilitation request #2117 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

5. Industrial Commission (Request #2118)

WITHDRAWN

6. Adjutant General-Emergency Services * (Request #2119)

The office of the Adjutant General-Emergency Services is requesting an increase in line-item spending authority from the Disaster Costs line of \$21,780,000 in federal funding authority and an increase in line-item spending authority from the Disaster Costs line of \$3,432,000 in special funds with Bank of North Dakota loan authority for the state cost share for a severe winter ice storm and straight-line winds that caused damage from December 25-27, 2023. More than 2000 power poles were destroyed from freezing rain and excessive wind. A disaster was declared for 13 counties including Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Grant, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Stutsman, and Trail. This request includes two disaster programs through FEMA, the Public Assistance and the Hazard Mitigation Program.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Bekkedahl and seconded by Secretary Howe, Adjutant General Emergency Service request #2119 was approved and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Burgum.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Michael Howe
Secretary of State
Secretary, Emergency Commission