

**EMERGENCY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 – 10:00 A.M.
FORT TOTTEN ROOM**

Members present in the Fort Totten Room were Governor Doug Burgum, Secretary of State Al Jaeger, and Senator Rich Wardner. Members present via Microsoft Teams were Representative Chet Pollert, Senator Ray Holmberg, and Representative Jeff Delzer.

Governor Burgum called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Office of the State Auditor (Request # 2006)

Request approval for a line item transfer of \$35,000 from the salaries line to the operating line (\$35,000) to allow for multi-year software licenses, reconfiguration of office space for better utilization and to relocate offsite FTE to the capitol, which will provide a new basis for reallocation of rental costs.

Senator Wardner moved to approve the request. Representative Pollert seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

2. North Dakota Department of Veteran's Affairs * (Request # 2007)

Request increased spending authority of \$400,000 to accept federal funds from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas, for the grants line (\$400,000) to provide veterans with transportation to medical appointments.

Senator Holmberg moved to approve the request. Senator Wardner seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

3. North Dakota University System * (Request # 2008)

Request increased spending authority of \$2,500,000 to accept federal pass-through funds from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) for the system governance line (\$2,500,000) for allocation to institutions for response to COVID-19 prompted changing educational needs of students for virtual instruction and virtual retraining.

Representative Pollert moved to approve the request. Senator Wardner seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

4. Department of Public Instruction * (Request # 2009)

Request increased spending authority of \$950,000 to accept federal funding pass-through funds from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) for operating line (\$950,000) for digital platform for remote learning (\$600,000) and for Special Education/Para-to-Teacher Pathway (\$350,000) to provide qualified special education teachers.

Senator Wardner moved to approve the request. Secretary Jaeger seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

5. Department of Public Instruction * (Request # 2010)

Request increased spending authority of \$500,000 to accept federal funding pass-through funds from North Dakota Information Technology for the other grants line (\$500,000) for grants to school districts to support broadband telecommunications.

Senator Holmberg moved to approve the request. Senator Wardner seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

6. Department of Trust Lands (Request # 2011)

Request approval for adding 1 FTE for the Minerals Division (the FTE will be subject to approval in the next legislative session) to provide additional staff to assist in the leasing and managing of 2.6 million mineral acres under the Department's trust responsibilities.

Secretary Jaeger moved to approve the request. Senator Wardner seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Jaeger, and Burgum. Voting no was Delzer. Motion carried.

7. Office of the Adjutant General – Department of Emergency Services * (Request # 2012)

Request increased spending authority of \$11,414,160 to accept federal funds for disaster costs line (\$9,860,400) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as authorized in N.D.C.C. § 37- 17.1-22 and to accept loan proceeds for disaster costs line (\$1,553,760) from the Bank of North Dakota as authorized in N.D.C.C. § 37-17.1-23 for flooding occurring between April 1 and 15, 2020, in the counties of Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Foster, Grand Forks, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Nelson, Pembina, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Traill, and Walsh for the Public Assistance Program and the Hazard Mitigation Program.

Representative Pollert moved to approve the request. Representative Delzer seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

8. Department of Human Services * (Request # 2013)

Request increased spending authority of \$17,500,000 to accept federal funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the grants – medical assistance line (\$17,000,000) to assist with Medicaid Services including traditional Medicaid, long term care, and home and community based services and the grants line (\$500,000) to assist with foster care and sub-adoption services.

Representative Pollert moved to approve the request. Senator Holmberg seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

9. Bank of North Dakota (Request # 2014)

Request approval to repurpose up to \$100,000,000, as approved in Request # 1982 on May 12, 2020, from an interest buydown program on new loans for businesses requiring working capital to assist with a business restart to an interest rate buydown program for businesses on existing debt incurred prior to or during the COVID-19 pandemic and to return \$70,000,000 of the original approved authorization of \$200,000,000.

Senator Wardner moved to approve the request with a reduction from \$100,000,000 to \$50,000,000 with a return of \$120,000,000 of the original approved authorization. Secretary Jaeger seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Holmberg, Jaeger and Burgum. Voting no were Pollert and Delzer. Motion carried. The Governor noted that all members supported the program, except for the amount of the repurpose approved in the motion.

10. North Dakota Veteran's Home * (Request # 2015)

Request increased spending authority of \$385,400 to accept federal funds of \$85,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Enhancement Act, and funds of \$300,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Public Assistance Program, to cover expenses related to COVID-19.

Representative Pollert moved to approve the request. Senator Wardner seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger and Burgum. Motion carried.

11. Department of Environmental Quality * (Request # 2016)

Request increased spending authority of \$182,500 to accept federal funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the salaries line (\$160,500) and for the operating line (\$22,000) for expenditures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senator Wardner moved to approve the request. Representative Pollert seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

12. Office of Management and Budget * (Request # 2017)

Request approval for a line item transfer of \$5,932,707, as approved by the Emergency Commission in Request # 2004, August 3, 2020, from the grants line (11060) to a special designated grants Geer funds line (11076). The Geer funds are designated for K-12 and higher education.

Senator Wardner moved to approve the request. Senator Holmberg second the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

13. North Dakota Department of Agriculture * (Request # 2018)

Request withdrawn prior to meeting

14. North Dakota Department of Agriculture * (Request # 2019)

Request approval for a line item transfer of \$185,000 to partially repurpose the funds of \$5,000,000, as approved by the Emergency Commission in Request # 1994 on June 18, 2020, from the grants line to the operating line for a virtual Pride of Dakota showcase (\$100,000), for a Pride of Dakota digital event and mapping experience (\$25,000), and for the plant protection division for a paperless application program (\$60,000).

Request withdrawn during meeting

15. North Dakota Department of Agriculture * (Request # 2020)

Request approval to partially repurpose funds of \$392,800 included in the funds of \$5,000,000, as approved by the Emergency Commission in Request # 1994 on June 18, 2020, to support North Dakota meat processing plants to support an increased share to the program goal of seventy-five percent share.

Request withdrawn during meeting

16. Department of Public Instruction * (Request # 2021)

Request increased spending authority of \$30,000,000 to accept federal funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund Created by the CARES Act for the Grants – other line (\$30,000,000) for grants to K-12 school districts for additional staff to provide for support and services in response to the impact of COVID-19.

Senator Wardner moved to approve the request. Senator Holmberg seconded the motion. Voting yes were Wardner, Pollert, Holmberg, Delzer, Jaeger, and Burgum. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State
Secretary to Emergency Commission