

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 2023
MEETING OF THE
INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair Daniele Monroe-Moreno called a special meeting of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to order at 10:34 a.m. on April 22, 2023, online and in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Chair
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Vice Chair
Senator Nicole Cannizzaro
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Dallas Harris
Senator Dina Neal
Senator Rochelle Nguyen
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Senator Robin Titus
Assemblywoman Natha Anderson
Assemblywoman Shea Backus
Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblyman Gregory Hafen II
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblywoman Heidi Kasama
Assemblyman Cameron "CH" Miller
Assemblyman Philip P.K. O'Neill
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblyman Howard Watts
Assemblyman Steve Yeager

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Sarah Coffman, Fiscal Analyst, Assembly
Wayne Thorley, Fiscal Analyst, Senate
Brody Leiser, Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Cathy Crocket, Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Karen Hoppe, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Bryan Fernley, Legislative Counsel
Eileen O'Grady, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel
Jessica Dummer, Deputy Legislative Counsel
Tom Weber, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary
Melissa Garvin, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary

EXHIBITS:

[Exhibit A](#): Meeting Packet

A. ROLL CALL.

MELISSA GARVIN (Secretary, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau [LCB]), called the roll. All members were present except Assemblywoman Gorelow, who was excused.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no public comment.

C. STATEMENT OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND OBLIGATIONS AND REMAINING RESERVE BALANCES WITHIN THE COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAMS BUDGET ACCOUNT.

BRODY LEISER (Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB): I will walk through Agenda Item C, the Statement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Obligations and Remaining Reserve Balances. The statement can be found beginning with the summary sheet on page 5 of the meeting packet ([Exhibit A](#)). One work program has been submitted for consideration today, which if approved, would authorize \$34,000 under the \$100 million authority set aside for state agencies and therefore does not impact the overall balance displayed on the summary sheet of the statement. The remaining unobligated balance of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds is displayed on the statement and is approximately \$42.5 million. There are no changes to this amount compared to the statement that was presented at the April 6, 2023, meeting of the IFC. As discussed during that meeting, the unobligated balance displayed on the statement does not reflect additional amounts which are recommended by the Governor in the budget for the 2023-25 biennium.

Pages 6 through 15 detail the obligations approved to date and pages 16 through 21 include the breakdown statement for select obligations of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds ([Exhibit A](#)). There is one item which is located on page 22 under the section for allocations of the \$100 million in authority set aside for state agencies that is presented for consideration today by the Committee. The table on page 22 provides the details showing savings resulting from final program expenditures compared to the originally approved authority. There are no dollar amount changes to this section of the statement since the April 6, 2023, meeting of the IFC.

There was no further discussion on this item.

D. APPROVAL OF WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 353.220(5)(b) - REQUIRES EXPEDITIOUS ACTION WITHIN 15 DAYS - Department of Public Safety - Dignitary Protection - FY 2023 - Addition of \$34,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs

account to fund a projected shortfall in the In-State Travel category for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the In-State Travel category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #23FRF47381. RECEIVED 4-14-22.**

SHERI BRUEGGEMANN (Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety [DPS]):
With me is Curtis Palmer, Chief Financial Officer, DPS, and John Letos, Chief of the Capitol Police and Dignitary Protection, DPS. I am here today to discuss the work program for dignitary protection. The department originally requested \$34,000 in additional funds for in-state travel, but the amount has been reduced to \$24,500.

CHAIR MONROE-MORENO:
Please explain the reduction in the request.

Ms. BRUEGGEMANN:
There is a cottage available for traveling dignitaries for their use and that will slightly reduce the cost. Also, the Governor is using the state plane as often as possible.

CHAIR MONROE-MORENO:
How many staff does the agency have and what is the current vacancy rate?

JOHN LETOS (Chief of the Capitol Police and Dignitary Protection, DPS):
The agency currently has some vacancies, which has been taxing for in-state travel because the bulk of my team is located in the Las Vegas area. One staff member in Southern Nevada was recently promoted and will be relocating to the north, which will minimize some of the need for travel for the Las Vegas contingent.

CHAIR MONROE-MORENO:
Please restate the revised amount for the record.

Ms. BRUEGGEMANN:
The revised amount in the In-State category is \$24,500 rather than \$34,000.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM D
IN THE REVISED AMOUNT OF \$24,500.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BACKUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS
PRESENT.

E. DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY - Housing Division - INFORMATIONAL ONLY - Status report on the Home Means Nevada Initiative for affordable housing as requested during the April 7, 2022, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee.

STEVE AICHROTH (Administrator, Housing Division, Department of Business and Industry): I am providing an update on the Home Means Nevada Initiative. The highlight is that the division has exercised an agreement with ICF International, Inc., which is a national group assisting the division with its HOME ARPA funds and technical assistance. The ICF also assists other states and localities with their use of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds specifically in the housing field.

SENATOR NEAL:

Thank you for submitting the supporting documentation that was received yesterday. When I asked about the 73 acres that was part of the Texas Station land purchase, the division provided an application and letter of intent from the City of North Las Vegas that indicates the city was going to purchase the land. Was this information within the documentation that the division provided?

MR. AICHROTH:

I believe so, yes.

SENATOR NEAL:

The City of North Las Vegas sent a letter to the Committee after the April 6, 2023, IFC meeting stating the city did not purchase that land; however, the documents submitted by the Housing Division counters the city's statement.

MR. AICHROTH:

I am not familiar with that letter. The documentation provided by the Housing Division to the Committee was the actual application and backup documentation that was initially submitted to the division.

SENATOR NEAL:

I believe Mr. Aichroth is telling the truth. I believe that the City of North Las Vegas committed perjury in this body by making the statement that what the Committee heard about the 73-acre purchase was not true. The documentation the Committee received yesterday literally states that in order for the City of North Las Vegas to buy the 73 acres of Texas Station land, the city needs the \$10 million from Home Means Nevada, and it is dependent upon this \$10 million to finalize the purchase. There are letters submitted by the city manager on city council letterhead saying that clearly there was knowledge that the city was aware this was happening. I know this is an informational item, but I would love for this to become an action item around the \$10 million associated with the purchase of this land.

CHAIR MONROE-MORENO:

I think a conversation would need to occur with the Legal Division to decide how to proceed.

SENATOR NEAL:

I would like to add something else to be discussed with the Legal Division. Several times while in this Committee, I have mentioned the Windsor Park issue and the land that I am seeking associated with these families and that part of those 73 acres should also be examined to see if a portion of that land could be used for the relocation of those families since the state has already invested \$10 million to purchase the land.

CHAIR MONROE-MORENO:

That will be added. I will include you in any conversations with the Legal Division.

SENATOR TITUS:

Is the discussion concerning ARPA funds or General Funds?

SENATOR NEAL:

The existing money came from the Home Means Nevada money, and it was already allocated. It is my understanding the City of North Las Vegas was granted \$10 million to purchase the land in addition to the city's own general fund. The mix of dollars includes General Fund, ARPA funds, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds, and Home Means Nevada funds.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

The division mentioned it contracted with a third party to help with technical assistance. Please elaborate.

MR. AICHROTH:

The ICF scope of work involves addressing compliance questions, assisting with and processing agreements, and working with the division on a monitoring plan. Once the money has been funded and the project has come to fruition, the ICF will assist the division in developing a monitoring plan. The ICF will assist to ensure the money is obligated in the correct period of time and that compliance with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund final rule is adhered to.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

Is the payment for the third party coming out of the \$500 million for the Home Means Nevada Initiative or a different budget? I believe the \$500 million has already been expended. Is the division concerned that without the third party, the money will not be expended by the deadline?

MR. AICHROTH:

The division is administering this fund with two-tenth of 1%, which is \$1 million. Thus, \$499 million will be disbursed and \$1 million will stay within the division for administrative purposes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

Is the division confident the money will be expended by the deadline with the assistance of the third party?

MR. AICHROTH:
Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:
I think the \$1 million is a wise investment.

CHAIR MONROE-MORENO:
I would remind anyone providing testimony that it must be truthful regardless of who you are.

There was no further discussion on this item.

F. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES - INFORMATIONAL ONLY - Status report on the issuance of technology fee refunds as required by the stipulation agreement dated November 1, 2021, for the period ending March 31, 2023.

SEAN SEVER (Deputy Administrator, Department of Motor Vehicles [DMV]):
Thank you for the chance to update the Committee on the department's technology fee refund project, which I am happy to report is almost complete.

Through March 31, 2023, the DMV has distributed more than \$1.8 million of the \$6 million in refunds available. The DMV issued 61,005 refund checks to businesses on February 22, 2022, for a total of approximately \$2.2 million. As of March 31, 2023, 44,873 of the refunds have cleared for more than \$1.6 million, or 74%. More than \$3.8 million in cash refunds were made available to the public in DMV offices on April 4, 2022. As of March 31, 2023, 93,044 of the refunds have been issued for more than \$272,500, or 7.14%.

Throughout this project, the DMV has found that most customers are not interested in receiving the refund and have told the department to keep the money, which is not reflected in these statistics. The DMV has conducted a very large advertising campaign, received a lot of media coverage, and posted on social media numerous times to remind customers to pick up their refunds. The DMV will continue these efforts and proactively encourage customers to get their refunds when they visit a DMV office. Any funds remaining after June 30, 2023, will revert to the State Highway Fund pursuant to Section 4.7 of Senate Bill 457 of the 2021 Legislative Session.

There was no further discussion on this item.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no public comment.

CHAIR MONROE-MORENO:

I do want to say before adjournment that Fiscal staff is doing a lot of work. We are in the middle of a crunch time of a legislative session and the division is also preparing for the Economic Forum meeting, so having another IFC meeting was not planned, expected or ideal. Thank you to all of our staff. Please know that the work you are doing does not go unappreciated. We truly appreciate all of you. Both of the IFC Chairs do not wish to have another IFC meeting; there is a lot of work remaining to get through this legislative session.

N. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Monroe-Moreno adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Chair
Interim Finance Committee

Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau,
and Secretary, Interim Finance Committee