

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2016 First Extraordinary Session
February 15, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in Room 5, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman
Representative Mark Abraham
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman
Representative Lance Harris
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Scott M. Simon

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Penny B. Bouquet, Administrative Secretary
Mr. Peter G. E. Conroy, Legislative Analyst
Ms. Nancy Keaton, Legislative Analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ms. Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms
Ms. Vivian Hurst, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Patrick Goldsmith, Director of the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70804, (225) 342-8568, presented the organizational portion of the meeting.

Mr. Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, presented the Governor's proposed deficit plan for FY15-16 and FY16-17.

Executive Department

Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Chris Henry, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets for the Executive Department.

Mr. David Weiland, Senior Director of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Evan Holmes, Director of Operations for the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District (LSED), 1500 Girod Street, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 587-3850, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets for LSED.

Commissioner Dardenne; Mr. Darryl G. Purpera, Legislative Auditor, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 339-3800; Mr. Mark Moses, Assistant Commissioner for Facility Planning and Control, P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-0820; and Ms. Liz Muriell, Director of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 342-7015, discussed the 2016 audit findings concerning the Bensen Tower lease agreement with Representative Schroder. (See Exhibit A)

Mr. Charles A. Gardner, III, Executive Director of the Louisiana State Racing Commission, 320 North Carrollton Avenue, Suite 2-B, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 483-4000, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets for the Racing Commission.

Mr. Purpera and Commissioner Dardenne discussed the reconciliation of monies owed to Higher Education from the Racing Commission with Representative Schroder, and Mr. Barry Dussé,

Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, addressed the Racing Commission's expenditures.

Mr. Dussé discussed, with Representative Abraham, clarification on statutory dedications.

Ms. Erin Monroe Wesley, Special Counsel in the Governor's Office, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-7015, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets for the Office of the Governor.

Commissioner Dardenne addressed the committee regarding fully-funded versus vacant Table of Organization positions within the proposed budgets for all state agencies.

Mr. Dussé also addressed the committee regarding state agency Table of Organization positions and any federal fund match associated with the loss of general fund in the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 5:24 p.m.

Mr. Stephen B. Street, Jr., State Inspector General, 602 North Fifth Street, Suite 621 , Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4262, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets for the Office of State Inspector General. (See Exhibit B)

Mr. Kevin Robshaw, Director of the Louisiana Mental Health Advocacy Service (MHAS), 627 North Fourth Street, Suite 1-322, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6678, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets for MHAS.

Mr. Charles Abels, Administrator, and Ms. Jane Broussard, Assistant Director of the Louisiana Tax Commission, 5420 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 107, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 925-7830, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 budget for the Louisiana Tax Commission.

Commissioner Dardenne and Ms. Desireé Honoré Thomas, Assistant Commissioner of Statewide Services, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 budget for the Division of Administration.

Mr. Johnny Bradberry, Chairman, and Ms. Janice Lansing, Chief Financial Officer of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7308, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 budget for CPRA.

Mr. James Waskom, Director, Ms. Christina Dayries, Deputy Director for Grants and Administration, and Mr. William Rachal, Chief of Staff for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-7501, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets for GOHSEP. (See Exhibit C)

Major General Glenn H. Curtis, Adjutant General, Louisiana National Guard, 304 F Street, Pineville, LA 71360, (318) 641-5600, gave an overview and discussed the FY 15-16 budget for the Department of Military Affairs.

Mr. James T. Dixon, Jr., State Public Defender, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 216-9305, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 budget for the Louisiana Public Defender Board.

Mr. Jim Craft, Executive Director, and Mr. Jim Franklin, Deputy Director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1500, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 budget for the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.

Ms. Karen Ryder, Deputy Assistant Secretary, and Ms. Danielle Stafford, Financial Director for the Office of Elderly Affairs, 525 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7100, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 budget for the Office of Elderly Affairs.

Ms. Christine Kirkland, Deputy Commissioner, and Ms. Dawn Iueli, Accounting Manager for the Office of Financial Institutions (OFI), 8660 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4660, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 budget for OFI.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations