

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:10 a.m. on January 31, 2000 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Laurie Bleeker, excused

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department  
Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Gene "Stoney" Wages, Executive Director Ks. Commission on Veterans' Affairs  
Wayne Bollig, Director of Cemetery, Ks. Commission on Veteran's Affairs

Others attending: See Attached list

Chairman Oleen recognized Gene "Stoney" Wages, Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. Mr. Wages stated that he retired from the Army after 35 years of active duty and this is his 10th day on the job as Executive Director. Mr. Wages stated that his mission is to do the right thing for the aging veteran population. Mr. Wages stated that the procurement of additional space in the Federal and State cemeteries is a very important issue because of the fact that nationwide eleven hundred veterans from the World War II era a day are being buried. Mr. Wages stated that the Ft. Riley expansion is waiting on the final transfer of land. He stated that a meeting is being held with the Ft. Riley Cemetery Committee at Ft. Riley on February 8 to discuss the progress on that cemetery. The grant has been awarded on the Ft. Dodge cemetery and construction will begin there first. Mr. Wages stated that the governor has ordered a hold on the planning dollars for the Winfield and WaKeeney locations.

Senator Biggs ask Mr. Wages if he were aware of the consolidation between the Topeka Veterans Administration and the Leavenworth facility and the proposed demolition of 39 building at the Leavenworth site, some of which are being viewed as historical sites by some individuals. Mr. Wages stated that he had attended the meeting in January and felt good about the cooperation between the historical society, the veterans administration and the veterans organizations at that meeting.

Chairman Oleen called on Wayne Bollig, Director of Cemetery, Kansas Commission on Veteran's Affairs. Mr. Bollig stated that he is a Kansas native from Hays, Kansas and that he has been on the job since October. Mr. Bollig stated that the Ft. Riley project is moving forward and the only item needing to be completed for the land to be declared excess is a survey to be completed by February 1. He stated that as soon as that land has been transferred to the State, the pre-application can be moved forward and the master plan will be drawn up and the award made on the project. At this time the initial application is for 2.6 million dollars. Ft. Dodge will be the first to begin construction since it is an expansion and the grant has been awarded. Ft. Riley should be started in the summer of 2000. The Winfield and WaKeeney sites may be delayed. Mr. Bollig stated he was most concerned about this delay because the pre-application needs to be completed and its fee is 100% refundable with federal monies, along with 100% coverage of all construction costs for the cemeteries.

Chairman Oleen stated that since these cemeteries were a package deal in the act, it is important to be sure that the process is completed while the federal funds are available. It is important to go forward with the pre application with the understanding that 100% of the planning money is reimbursable.

Chairman Oleen ask for action on the minutes for the committee for January 25 and January 26. Senator Gooch ask that the January 26 minutes be amended to reflect Phil Ruffin as the person who submitted a application to reopen the Camptown Racetrack. Senator Gooch moved that the January 25 minutes be approved as submitted and the January 26 minutes be approved as amended. Senator Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Oleen requested Russell Mills, Legislative Research review bills that remained in the committee

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS, Room 245-N Statehouse, at 11:10 a.m. on January 31, 2000.

from last session.

After discussion by committee members, Senator Harrington moved that SUB SB 55 which pertained to a legislative compensation package, be reported unfavorably by the committee. Senator Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held February 1, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.