MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held in Room 1E at the Legislative Office Building, on March 5, 2015

PRESENT: Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman
Deputy Comptroller Martha Carlson
Deputy Treasurer Christine Shaw
Senator Beth Bye
Senator Robert Kane
Representative Toni Walker
Representative Melissa Ziobron
Deputy Secretary Susan Weisselberg
Office of Policy and Management, Finance Advisory Committee Clerk

Lieutenant Governor Wyman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting were adopted.

The following new transactions were considered by the committee:

FAC 2015-01 for the Department of Transportation. Transfer of $10,700,000 from Personal Services to Other Expenses to cover immediate cash flow needs for snow and ice removal costs, as well as maintenance and repair costs for equipment and vehicles.

Senator Kane asked about overtime costs. Commissioner Redeker responded that the current overtime level reflected the increased need for road repair and other maintenance work, including snow removal. Senator Kane also asked whether the Other Expenses account will experience a deficiency. The commissioner indicated it would not assuming there were no more extraordinary storms.

Representative Ziobron asked whether the FAC transfer would create a shortfall in Personal Services. Commissioner Redeker responded that this transaction would shift the shortfall from Other Expenses to Personal Services but would enable the agency to pay immediate bills and get through the remainder of the winter season. He also noted that DOT would work with OPM to ensure the deficiency bill was updated.

The item was unanimously approved.

FAC 2015-02 for the Public Defender Services Commission. Transfer of $4,960,000 from Personal Services to the Assigned Counsel-Criminal and the Expert Witnesses accounts due to the increased number and costs of habeas corpus cases and expert witnesses.

Senator Kane inquired about the types of expert witnesses utilized in the Expert Witnesses Account. Steven Hunt, Finance Director for the agency, responded that the account was utilized to cover expenses for medical examiners, investigators, and other such positions and that he would forward a list of all the types of expert witnesses to Senator Kane.

Senator Kane asked whether the FAC was a result of the habeas corpus backlog stemming from the passage of Public Act 12-115, AAC Concerning Habeas Corpus Reform, and wondered how far into the future the surge would continue until leveling off. Mr. Hunt confirmed the need arose from the Public Act and noted that the workload would likely last several years.

Representative Ziobron asked whether the FAC transfer would leave a shortfall in Personal Services. Mr. Hunt responded that this transaction would shift the deficiency from the Assigned Counsel – Criminal and Expert Witnesses accounts to Personal Services. The Lieutenant Governor added that the deficiency bill would be adjusted accordingly.

The item was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Weisselberg
Clerk