

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1023

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10/2/03  
Date

2003 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1023

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1023

House Appropriations Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 01-16-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X	X	
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Chris S. Nylund</i>			

Minutes:

**Chairman Svedjan** called the meeting to order. All members were present except for Rep. Martinson and Gulleason.

**Sheila Peterson, Director of the Fiscal Management Division of OMB** See Attached.

**Rep. Delzer** How many outlying bonds did they refinance and how many more will they?

**Peterson** They refinanced 3 bonds and we don't have any that qualify for refinancing now.

**Karlene Find Industrial Commission** As of now we don't have any to refinance.

**Rep. Delzer** How do you refinance a bond and what sets bond ratings?

**Peterson** We totally refinance them.

**Rep. Wald** You suggest that these projects are more worthy than the facility at Dickinson State University?

**Peterson** Yes, we believe them to be a higher priority, and you'll see more in the written testimony.

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**Rep. Wald** The Dickinson facility has been in need of restoration for years and it should not be skipped.

**Peterson** There is an explanation for this in the written testimony, but the Governor's budget rated other projects a higher priority.

**Rep. Timm** What is the payment on the bonds during the 03-05 biennium?

**Peterson** The total bond payments are 18.5 million dollars, 2.5 of that is from other sources and 16 million is from the general fund.

**Rep. Timm** What is available in the 05-07 biennium?

**Peterson** \$711,000.

**Rep. Timm** What figure on the sheet is decreased due to the bond payments?

**Peterson** Well, it is not as straight forward as that.

**Rep. Delzer** What is the total debt load?

**Peterson** I don't have that information.

**Rep. Timm** The state of ND is indebted to that bond issuance?

**Peterson** Yes, until 2023

**Rep. Carlson** When did we start authorizing bond issues?

**Peterson** 2001

**Rep. Carlson** What is the payback?

**Peterson** 10 years

**Rep. Monson** When you refinance bonds, what is the time frame structure and do you extend the maturity date?

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**Peterson** We do not extend the maturity date, we simply restructure them according to our financial analysis.

**Dave Glatt** Section Chief, Environmental Health Section of ND Department of Health

See Attached Testimony

**Rep. Carlson** I would like to know what amount of bioterrorism dollars we have spent on our own and where is it coming from and going.

**Chairman Svedjan** So noted.

**Chairman Svedjan** Why don't you use all of the bioterrorism money to fund the entire project?

**Arvie Smith** We used a representative committee's recommendation. We can not use the dollars for the construction of new buildings, however we can use them for renovations.

**Rep. Warner** What are the nature of things that are held in cold storage and are they all necessary to have in cold storage?

**Glatt** We have bulk supplies, some files that are required by law to be there, some rarely used equipment, and some other supplies.

**Dr. George Mizell, State Forensic Examiner** See Attached

**Chairman Svedjan** Have there been discussions with UND-Medical School on the morgue issue and storage space?

**Mizell** There have not been any formal communications with them as far as I know.

**Chairman Svedjan** Do you know if the school has space for this service?

**Mizell** I'm not aware of any.

**Rep. Timm** -To Sheila in OMB - What action did we take 2 years ago on this issue?

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**Smith** They were held over 4 years ago and in the interim committee because they were part of the master building plan. That is why they were not acted on.

**Rep. Skarphol** How long ago was your office created Mr. Mizell?

**Mizell** 8 years ago in 1996, before that all of these service had to be contracted out.

**Rep. Skarphol** What about the case load that forensics are willing to handle.

**Mizell** Most pathologists don't want to take these types of cases, nor do they have the time.

**Rep. Skarphol** Could we combine our facility with those of other states in a cost-cutting measure and would that be feasible. Has it ever been discussed?

**Smith** We have no formal agreements with other states. Transportation would be a major cost associated with that. Also, some other things to consider are legal aspects like possession of evidence.

**Mizell** The nearest facility is in Minneapolis, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Missoula.

**Rep. Aarsvold** Would the state be in a difficult position in a criminal death if your facility was not updated?

**Mizell** There is a definite potential for that to happen.

**Rep. Delzer** Why does your facility need to be ten times larger than it is right now?

**Mizell** Well, the floor plan that you see of the current facility does not include all of the space. The new facility would be about 4-6 times larger.

**Rep. Delzer** I would like to see the complete floor plan in subcommittee.

**Mizell** I'll have them for you.

**Smith** The office space is larger than it shows.

**Rep. Kempenich** Do you take in external state's excessive case loads?

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**Mizell** No, we don't. We only do ND cases.

**Rep. Koppleman** How many cases are kept by the county coroners and do they do their own autopsies?

**Mizell** There are not a lot of autopsies kept by the counties.

**Rep. Kroeber** What are the qualifications to be a coroner?

**Mizell** They have to be physicians residing in that county, but if no physician is present then a sheriff can be one.

**Rep. Carlisle** Is it your intention to refer to subcommittee?

**Chairman Svedjan** We will hold for further information on that for subcommittee.

**Dave Krabenhof, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation**

**Rep. Warner** Does this transfer of money involve taking it from human resources?

**Krabenhof** No, it doesn't.

**Rep. Delzer** You're taking over a lot of building and with this there is not transfer of title?

**Krabenhof** No, there is not, but federal money has an important role in saving us money.

**Rep. Skarphol** What do we have to do to make this unnecessary?

**Krabenhof** The use of these buildings have no impact on prison space.

**Chairman Svedjan** If we don't do the women's prison is the project still necessary?

**Krabenhof** Yes, it is.

**Rep. Kerzmann** What are the Department of Correction's long range construction plans?

**Krabenhof** After we construct these new buildings our long-range plans will be complete depending on incarceration rates.

**Rep. Kerzmann** Is the judicial branch involved in this at all?

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**Krabenhof** I'm not sure of any indication that it is.

**Darin Scherr, P.E of CEM**

**Chairman Svedjan** If these projects are approved and come in under budget, what happens to the left over money?

**Scherr** I though about additional energy work or other projects.

**Chairman Svedjan** Who are bond interest payments made to?

**Scherr** They are made to the Industrial Commission and they pay the respective underwriter.

**Rep. Carlson** If we pay for these out of savings and energy usage is going up, where is the money coming from?

**Scherr** It is complicated, but when we estimate our energy usage per unit, it acts as a cost avoidance and that saves us money.

**Rep. Delzer** I want a list of projects and a list of their savings when you come to committee.

**Scherr** We are working on that.

**Rep. Delzer** Until we get that information on that I will not support his construction project.

**Chairman Svedjan** That is why I asked my question.

**Scherr** It would go back to pay off the debt, into the general fund.

**Laura, ND Board of Higher Education**

**Rep. Carlson** Since estimating utility costs is like aiming at a moving target, if the cost goes up where does the money come from?

**Laura** It comes when you fund it. When an agency exceeds their utility budget, they have to find other funds to pay for them.

**Rep. Carlson** Do you bond for these expenses?



