

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

SPECIAL FULL BOARD MEETING

2:00 p.m.

August 5, 2021

Teleconference

Originating at:

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120

Anchorage, Alaska

Trustees Present:

Chris Cooke, Chair

Verne' Boerner

Brent Fisher

Anita Halterman

John Sturgeon

Rhonda Boyles

Kevin Fimon

Trust Staff Present:

Mike Abbott

Steve Williams

Carol Howarth

Miri Smith-Coolidge

Valette Keller

Katie Baldwin-Johnson

Mike Baldwin

Josephine Stern

Becky Carpenter

Trust Land Office;

Jusdi Doucet

Hollie Chalup

Also participating:

Kristin Vandagriff; Bev Schoonover; Myranda Walso.

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR COOKE called the meeting to order and began with the roll call. All trustees were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHAIR COOKE announced that on Monday, August 2nd, information was received that Kevin Fimon had been officially appointed to serve on the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board. He stated that this is an appointment to fill a vacancy which, under the statutes, means that Mr. Fimon can be seated immediately and take part in all trustee matters as a full member of the board. He added that Mr. Fimon is subject to legislative confirmation when the Legislature is next in session. He welcomed Mr. Fimon.

MR. FIMON stated that he was honored to be part of the trustee board and hoped to be of some help.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

CHAIR COOKE moved to the agenda with one alteration, a typo which is the plan that the executive session will include the legislative audit discussion and also an update on a personnel matter. He asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion to approve the agenda with the two adjustments was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

TRUSTEE BOERNER pointed out the need for a roll-call vote since there were some trustees on the phone.

CHAIR COOKE called the roll-call vote.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes.)

ETHICS DISCLOSURES

CHAIR COOKE asked for any ethics disclosures. There being none, he moved to the first item on the agenda, and recognized Mike Abbott.

FY23 BUDGET DISCUSSION

MR. ABBOTT updated the board on the progress made in decisions with the Governor's office related to a couple of areas in the FY23 budget. He explained that last year the recommendations to the Administration for General Fund spending were not received as well as hoped. Since then, staff has been working to try to make the FY23 recommendations more productive. Towards that end, he and Steve Williams met twice with the Governor's chief of staff, the director of the Office of Management, Budget, and other Administration officials in order to help them understand the recommendations made, the objectives of the recommendations, and what made them unsuccessful. He continued that in those meetings a significant amount of common ground that the Trust and the Administration could work together on were identified to make the

recommendations productive. The Administration made two requests: First is to consider working with the Administration on a jointly funded effort, partially by the State, with opioid litigation settlement funds and partially by the Trust to jointly fund substance abuse treatment programming in Alaska. There was an immediate agreement that the Trust would like to be a part of that conversation and would be happy to consider potential Trust funding for such an effort. He stated that the second request was that prior to the board taking final action on General Fund recommendations for FY23, to meet with the Governor and his team in advance. That was agreed to, as well. He added that the Governor's office deserves a lot of credit for learning a lot about the Trust that they did not know as well as they should have. He added that there was a clear understanding and recognition of the independence and the autonomy of the Trust, and a recognition in terms of ultimate utilization of Trust funds needs to be a cooperative effort rather than the more directed effort. He concluded his report.

CHAIR COOKE thanked Mr. Abbott for the valuable information. He asked for a motion to go into executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: A motion that the board go into Executive Session to discuss the Trust's response to the confidential Legislative Budget & Audit Committee management letter and regarding personnel matters in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, AS 44.62.310(c) was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE STURGEON.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Boyle, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes.)

MR. ABBOTT requested that he, Carol Howarth, Jusdi Doucet, and Steve Williams from the staff join the trustees in Executive Session for the first agenda item. And that Valette Keller join, along with himself, for the second agenda item.

(Executive Session from 3:23 p.m. to 5:19 p.m.)

CHAIR COOKE stated that the board is back in session having completed the Executive Session. He noted that no substantive action was taken during the session. No motions or other action items were dealt with. He continued that the Special Board Meeting is back in open session.

MOTION: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by TRUSTEE HALTERMAN; seconded by TRUSTEE BOERNER.

After the roll-call vote, the MOTION was APPROVED. (Trustee Fisher, yes; Trustee Boyles, yes; Trustee Halterman, yes; Trustee Boerner, yes; Trustee Sturgeon, yes; Trustee Fimon, yes; Trustee Cooke, yes.)

CHAIR COOKE adjourned the meeting.

(The Special Full Board meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.)