

[Deputy Chairman: Mr. Nelson]

[7:30 p.m.]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It's 7:30. I will call the committee to order. We've got a very small agenda here tonight, and it should only take us five or ten minutes. The chairman, Bob Bogle, expresses regret for not being able to attend; however, he has other pressing matters.

The reason for the meeting is to discuss and approve the bill that was sent around with your agenda. There were two of them: one for \$8,500 and one for \$3,700, to Kingston Ross chartered accountants, who have been auditing the Auditor General. Although the chairman has the prerogative to approve these, he felt that because of the amounts of these moneys considered, it should be brought to the committee for approval prior to his signing them. So are there any questions? Tom Sigurdson, yes.

MR. ADY: I have a question. Does this constitute the annual fee for this group for that service, or is it a quarterly thing? Will we be receiving some more?

MRS. KAMUCHIK: That's the total amount.

MR. ADY: This is the total amount?

MRS. KAMUCHIK: That's right.

MR. ADY: So it's an annual charge?

MRS. KAMUCHIK: That's right.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It should be the total amount. Although the last bill obtained was at \$3,700 -- which, it was indicated, was a second interim billing -- it is conceivable that there may be another one. And you say there isn't.

MRS. KAMUCHIK: No, there isn't.

MR. SIGURDSON: Is this amount out of the ordinary? Because the chairman was somewhat reluctant in . . .

MRS. KAMUCHIK: No.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It's not out of the normal. This is a new assignment for the chairman also, and he didn't feel comfortable with just signing this off without the approval of the committee.

MR. TANNAS: I have two questions. One, what was the bill last year? And secondly, is it appropriate for an accountant to say "for professional services rendered," and not put any hour amount, that kind of thing, anything quantitative? Certainly they wouldn't approve all kinds of bills if there wasn't some quantity involved, if they were doing an audit on us, in whatever enterprise one might be engaged in. It seems a bit odd that they don't have any quantity in here, like 5,000 hours, two hours. What is it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I'm advised that the bill last year was \$11,250 and that this is a normal practice by accounting offices and services to provide this form of billing.

MRS. GAGNON: If I might, through you, Stan, to Louise: is it not the normal practice that these fees would be negotiated ahead of time: that it's a fee for service and you don't count the number of hours; it's the job that's done?

MRS. KAMUCHIK: That's right.

MRS. GAGNON: Yeah, it's a contract basis.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They would be negotiated with the Auditor General.

MRS. KAMUCHIK: And the Auditor General negotiates quite heavily.

MR. HYLAND: So what we've got . . . I guess I'm trying to get hold of what we've got. We've got the \$8,500 here to pay, on the date of May 2, and then June 29 is another \$3,700. So we're looking at \$12,000.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Twelve thousand, two hundred.

MR. HYLAND: And that'll pay all of last year's off plus a quarter of this year?

MRS. KAMUCHIK: No.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is for this year. This is for the audit of the Auditor General. From what is indicated to me, this is the billing, and that is final.

MR. HYLAND: This is just for the one year; okay. But it came in two shots.

MRS. KAMUCHIK: They do an interim preaudit of the Auditor General's office and then go back in to do the final audit. So that's why you have an interim billing, and then you have a final billing, which totals \$12,000.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The accountants who did it last year were different from the ones this year. So obviously, the Auditor General is in fact seeking people who are not only capable of doing the job but also give him a price that he tries to negotiate.

MRS. GAGNON: Question.

MR. HYLAND: I think you've got Tom's motion, don't you?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are we agreed to pay these as identified here?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Any opposed? Carried. Thank you.

The next item in the meeting is the date of the next meeting, which will be advised to the committee by the chairman. It is proposed to have an organizational meeting, especially for some of us who haven't sat on this committee previously, to identify some of the functions that we will be participating in. And we'll be interviewing, in all probability, the three Legislative offices

that we are responsible for. The chairman will advise that. I am assuming it will be sometime in September.

MR. HYLAND: That's assuming a call when we get out of here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yeah, it'll be after the House shuts down.

AN HON. MEMBER: So after September 1.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Well, we don't know that. Whenever the . . .

MR. FOX: After October 1, we should be out of here.

MRS. GAGNON: We're going to start filibustering. Just wait. We're going to keep you here till Christmas.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So other than that, that was basically the agenda item tonight. Could we have a motion to adjourn? Mr. Hyland? Are we agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Carried. Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 7:36 p.m.]