

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REP. MARK W. EVES
CHAIR

SEN. JUSTIN L. ALFOND
VICE-CHAIR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DAVID E. BOULTER



SEN. SETH A. GOODALL
SEN. MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU
SEN. TROY D. JACKSON
SEN. ROGER J. KATZ
REP. SETH A. BERRY
REP. KENNETH W. FREDETTE
REP. JEFFREY M. MCCABE
REP. ALEXANDER R. WILLETTE

126TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY
Special Meeting
May 9, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

Legislative Council Chair Mark Eves called the May 9, 2013 Special Legislative Council meeting to order at 2:55 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators: President Alfond, Senator Goodall, Senator Jackson, Senator Thibodeau and Senator Katz

Representatives: Speaker Eves, Representative Berry, Representative McCabe, Representative Fredette and Representative Willette

Legislative Officers: Millicent MacFarland, Clerk of the House
Robert Hunt, Assistant Clerk of the House
David E. Boulter, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
Dawna Lopatosky, Legislative Finance Director
Debra Olken, Human Resources Director
Marion Hylan Barr, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Grant Pennoyer, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review
Suzanne Gresser, Revisor of Statutes
John Barden, Director, Law and Legislative Reference Library
Scott Clark, Director, Legislative Information Technology

Speaker Eves convened the meeting at 2:55 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Emergency Aid to the City of Lewiston

Legislative Council Chair Speaker Eves thanked the members of the Legislative Council for attending the meeting on short notice. He explained that he called the special meeting of the Legislative Council for the purpose of considering a proposal to provide emergency financial aid from legislative accounts to the City of Lewiston in light of the recent tragic fires that have left several hundred people in the city homeless. He stated that he wanted to make sure that the immediate needs in the City of Lewiston are being met to cope with the situation. Legislative Council Vice-chair President Alfond made a motion as described below, seconded by Rep. Berry, and a general discussion among the members followed. Members expressed their support and concern for the victims of the fires in the City of Lewiston.

Rep. Fredette stated that he is familiar with the area of the city where the fires occurred, supported the motion and felt it was appropriate to take this action bipartisan manner. Senator Katz also felt the proposed action was the right action to take and commended the council for doing so collectively. Senator Thibodeau also stated his support for the motion. He added that at a future meeting of the Legislative Council the council should have a broader policy discussion about how to respond to similar situations in the future as they occur. He noted that other communities, smaller than Lewiston, have had devastating fires and other communities in the future may be deserving of consideration. Senator Goodall also supported the motion and expressed his gratitude that the council members can work together to help people who are in real need. Rep. Willette also supported the motion. He stated that he is familiar with the affected area of Lewiston and that those neighborhoods are some of the poorest in the area, and was glad the Legislature could provide the support.

Motion: That the Legislative Council authorize the transfer of \$30,000 from the Legislature's general operating account to the Maine Department of Health & Human Services for the purpose of distributing those funds to the City of Lewiston for emergency housing and aid, consistent with the department's rules; further, that the Executive Director arrange for the fund transfer and so notify the department in writing; and further, that the Executive Director send a letter to the City of Lewiston notifying the city of the forthcoming funds and asking the city to report back to the Legislative Council on the distribution of the funds and their effectiveness in providing emergency aid to individuals adversely affected by the fires. Motion by President Alfond. Second by Representative Berry. **Motion passed unanimous (10-0-0-0).**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.