

[Ms Graham in the chair]

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, ladies and gentleman, I think I'll call the meeting to order. This is the organizational meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills. I was just thinking back. I believe this is our Fourth Session of this Legislature. It's hard to believe. I will continue as chair, as the MLA for Calgary-Lougheed, and Mrs. Burgener will be continuing as vice-chair of this committee.

I would like to for the record introduce our very able table officers who will be assisting us again this term, that being Shannon Dean, Parliamentary Counsel, and Florence Marston, administrative assistant. I would also at this time like to welcome our newest addition to this committee, the hon. Member for Medicine Hat, Mr. Rob Renner. Welcome. Rob was, I think, my predecessor as chairman of this committee, so hopefully he won't be breathing down my neck too badly.

At this point I'd ask you to have reference to your agenda, which is in the binder that was distributed to you this morning. If you'd have a look at that, assuming it meets with your approval, I would entertain a motion to approve the agenda at this time. Mrs. Burgener moves that we approve the agenda. All in favour? Any opposed? The motion is carried.

We'll now move down the agenda to the approval of the minutes from our last meeting, being May 4, 1999. Mr. Langevin moves that we adopt those minutes as circulated. All in favour, please say aye. Any opposed, say no. The motion is carried.

We have received a total of five petitions this session, and before I ask Parliamentary Counsel to review those with us, I would like to just briefly highlight the procedure we use in committee. I know myself I have to refresh my memory every time we do this. The purpose of private bills, of course, is to allow an individual or a group of individuals to petition the Legislature for relief or remedy that is not available in the general law, and once a private bill is passed in the Legislature, it of course becomes as effective as any other legislation.

Our procedure on private bills is governed by Standing Orders 84 through 101. Just to summarize that as briefly as I can, I would remind you that the requirements for compliance of the petitions pursuant to the Standing Orders are that a petitioner advertise once in the *Alberta Gazette*, twice in two consecutive weeks in an Alberta newspaper. A petition must also be filed with the Assembly and with the Lieutenant Governor. There must be a draft bill presented along with a filing fee of \$200. Once the petitions have been received within the time limit, they are referred to the chairman of the committee, who then reports to the Assembly. Once the petitions have been reviewed by our committee, I report again to the Assembly, and the petitions are then read and received the following day.

The next step, then, would be the introduction of the various private bills by appropriate sponsors. This all occurs prior to the hearings on each petition, a schedule of hearings which we will set this week. We then proceed with the hearings, and of course you will recall that the petitioners appear and anyone else who is interested. They are sworn in, we are able to question them after they present their case basically, and then once we have completed all the hearings, we meet to deliberate on each bill and are able to make one of three determinations, either that the bill proceed as is, that it proceed with amendments, or that it not proceed. Once we have made those determinations, I then report again on behalf of the committee to the Legislature. Depending on the decision with respect to each bill, it will follow the same process as any other bill in the House, namely proceeding through second reading, Committee of the Whole, third reading, and Royal Assent.

Before we deal with the hearings, we of course receive the full report from Parliamentary Counsel.

MS DEAN: If I can just interrupt, Madam Chairman, there will be a more detailed report from our office with respect to each of the bills prior to the hearing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, and what you will give this morning will just be a brief review. Thanks for that clarification.

I think I'll conclude with that and ask Parliamentary Counsel to outline each of the petitions we have received and the nature of them. If you would, Ms Dean.

MS DEAN: Thanks, Madam Chairman. This year we have received five petitions for private bills, and I'm pleased to report that all five fully comply with the requirements in Standing Orders.

The first petition we received was for Pr. 1, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the Province of Alberta Repeal Act. The petitioner in this case is the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the Dominion of Canada, and they're requesting a bill to repeal a 1913 private act which created an entity called the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the Province of Alberta. The petitioner in this case has advised that that provincial entity has remained inactive since its incorporation, so they are seeking a repeal. Mr. Coutts will be sponsoring that bill.

The second petition we've received is for Pr. 2, the William Roper Hull Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2000. The petitioner here is the William Roper Hull Child and Family Services agency, and they are requesting amendments to the William Roper Hull Home act. The amendments will change the present title of the act and the name of the agency created under the act. The amendments will also seek to expand the objects of the agency to provide for the treatment of adults in addition to children and their families. The amendments will also enable the agency's trustee to appoint a representative to the agency's board.

The third petition we've received is for Pr. 3, the Westcastle Development Authority Repeal Act. Again, Mr. Coutts will be sponsoring this bill. The petitioners here are the town of Pincher Creek and the municipal district of Pincher Creek No. 9. They are seeking a repeal of a 1985 private act which created an entity called the Westcastle Development Authority, the purpose of which was to manage the Westcastle Park. The petitioners here have advised that the purpose for which this authority was incorporated no longer exists as the property and holdings have all been sold to a third party.

The fourth petition is for Pr. 4, the Calgary Municipal Heritage Properties Authority Amendment Act, 2000. The sponsor will be Mrs. Laing. The petitioner here is Larry Gilchrist, who is chair of the Calgary Municipal Heritage Properties Authority. Amendments are being sought to the Calgary Municipal Heritage Properties Authority Act. These amendments include a change in the name of the authority, expansion of its responsibilities with respect to the city of Calgary, alteration of the composition of the authority, and an update to the requirements regarding the disclosure of pecuniary interests in order that they will mirror the current requirements in the Municipal Government Act.

The fifth petition is for a repeal and replacement of a private act called the Calgary Foundation Act. Mrs. Burgener is the sponsor of this particular bill. The petitioner here, the Calgary Foundation, wishes to replace and repeal the Calgary Foundation Act, which was originally passed in 1981. The petitioner has advised that the substantive changes they are seeking include expansion of the foundation's powers of investment and the ability to delegate those powers, an amendment to the foundation's power to indemnify its directors and officers, an expansion of the foundation's power to

deal with gifts when the wishes of the donor are unclear, and the amendments will also expressly authorize the foundation to manage funds on behalf of other charitable organizations. There are also some minor amendments they are seeking which will remove certain procedural matters from the statute to allow for them to be addressed in the foundation's bylaws.

And that's it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms Dean.

Would there be any questions from members arising out of that report? Yes, Mr. Tannas.

9:10

MR. TANNAS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I just wanted to ask a question with regard to Pr. 1. Does this disband, then, the existing or is this only the disbandment of the overriding one, because there are active Elks clubs in many rural communities. I just wanted to know.

MS DEAN: Mr. Tannas, you'll get more detail in my report which will come out later this week. But again, the petitioner here is the federal Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. It's an entity created by a federal private act. Their advice to us is that the provincial Elks act established in a 1913 private statute has remained inactive since its incorporation, and they've advised us that the chapters in Alberta are all incorporated under the federal private act.

MR. COUTTS: I might just supplement the question for the hon. Member for Highwood. He's right in his question regarding who really has authority, if this act is repealed, over the Alberta Elks clubs within the province. There is a statute that has organized the Alberta Elks Association, and that particular association handles basically the authority that was handled originally by the federal Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada statute. So there is a provision for authority by an Alberta Elks Association. The original act put in in 1913 is not needed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that information.

Mrs. Burgener, did you have a question or comment?

MRS. BURGNER: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry.

All right. If there are no other questions or comments, I'd ask you to have reference to the proposed schedule of hearings which you'll find under plastic at the beginning of your binder, on the reverse side. As you will see, it is proposed that our first hearings take place next Tuesday, March 21, at which time we would deal with Pr. 1, Pr. 2, and Pr. 3. We would then break over the spring break and there would be no hearing on March 28. Our final hearing would then be Tuesday, April 4, when we would deal with Pr. 4 and Pr. 5. We would adjourn over April 11 and then meet Tuesday, April 18, for our deliberations and decisions, and that hopefully would complete

all our necessary meetings this session. All those meetings, with the exception of April 18, would commence at 8:30 a.m. following our usual procedure.

Yes, Mrs. Burgener.

MRS. BURGNER: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Just looking at your schedule, you have an adjournment scheduled for April 25 . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: The 28th.

MRS. BURGNER: It's printed 25th in my book.

THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me?

MRS. BURGNER: On the proposed schedule you also have a date of adjournment on April 25, which is, I believe, during Easter break. So if we have to have a formal meeting to adjourn, I think we are on recess at that time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, and I think that was why it was shown as it is, as an adjournment, so there would not be a meeting that week.

MRS. BURGNER: Thank you. Great.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would entertain a motion to . . . Yes, Mrs. Soetaert.

MRS. SOETAERT: What time are we starting?

THE CHAIRMAN: For the two hearing dates, 8:30 a.m. For the deliberation meeting, 9 o'clock.

MRS. SOETAERT: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Pham.

MR. PHAM: The only reason we start at 8:30 is to accommodate the Liberal members; right? I just ask you that . . .

MRS. SOETAERT: Is that a problem?

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that important clarification.

MR. PHAM: Just to be on record.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would anyone care to move the adoption of the schedule of hearings? Mr. Thurber, you so move? All in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Is there any other business of any sort that any member would like to raise? If not, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. Mr. McFarland moves that we adjourn.

[The committee adjourned at 9:15 a.m.]