

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
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Rough Draft

Special Committee on the Election Challenge to the Qualifications of Senator Ernie Chambers of  
District 11  
May 08, 2017

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[QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

The Special Committee on the Election Challenge to the Qualifications of Senator Ernie Chambers of District 11 met at 11:45 a.m. on Monday, May 8, 2017, in Room 2102 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska. Senators present: Dan Watermeier, Chairman; Kate Bolz; Sue Crawford; Dan Hughes; John Kuehn; John McCollister; Jim Scheer. Senators absent: None.

SENATOR BOLZ: Dan, I don't want to get ahead of you, but I have a question for Janice if...

[QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Oh, go ahead. No, that's fine. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR BOLZ: Just this seems reasonable. From your legal opinion, as our legal counsel, does this seem reasonable? [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

JANICE SATRA: I mean the amount? [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR BOLZ: The amount of the request,... [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

JANICE SATRA: Yeah. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR BOLZ: ...of paying it out of pocket. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

JANICE SATRA: Well, the rule does allow for expenses. I mean it says as to reimbursement of fees and expenses, so it's not inappropriate by any means. It's whether you just want that as part of the \$5,000 request. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR BOLZ: Or if we see it as separate from (inaudible). [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

JANICE SATRA: Separate and distinct, yes, that of the \$5,000 fees versus this fee.

[QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

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SPEAKER SCHEER: Take 4 or 5? [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Four or five? [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Votes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: So it would take 4. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

\_\_\_\_\_ : He's on his way. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SPEAKER SCHEER: No, he's not. He's still in his office. (Laughter) [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: All right, we're all here. I think we're going to call this meeting to order. You got the letter from Mr. McGuire, who represented Senator Chambers, asking for an additional \$618.80, which was his expenses for the challenge and we did not...we had just granted him the \$5,000, which was the total of the bond issue. So at that point in time I'd said (inaudible). Senator Scheer. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Yeah, per Janice's comments, the expenses look in order. They seem reasonable. They are part of the statute...the rule that states that they can reimburse this. And if he's forgoing the rest of his legal fees, I think that's a fair trade, the \$600 for the other \$4,000 or \$5,000 in expenses. So I would move that we pay the \$618.80. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Okay. The motion on the floor. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR BOLZ: Second. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Seconded, I'm sorry, seconded by Senator Bolz. Further discussion?  
[QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: Second. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: It's seconded by here. Is there further discussion? By Senator Bolz.  
Call the roll. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Kuehn. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR KUEHN: No. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Bolz. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR BOLZ: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Crawford. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Hughes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR HUGHES: No. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator McCollister. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Speaker Scheer. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Watermeier. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

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SENATOR WATERMEIER: No. Motion passes 4 to 3. We'll go ahead and make that out to him.  
[QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Okay. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: That will be it for the day. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: Thank you. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Thank you. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]