

Daily sitting 11

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Turner, from the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, presented the Second Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

December 15, 2020

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Economic Policy begs leave to submit this, their second report.

Your Committee met on December 9 and 11 and had under consideration:

Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Greg Turner,
M.L.A.
Chair

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Cullins, from the Standing Committee on Private Bills, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

December 15, 2020

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Private Bills begs leave to submit this, their First Report of the session.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 99, the Committee Clerk convened a meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills on December 10, 2020, in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and presided over the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair. On motion of Hon. Mr. Savoie, Mr. Cullins was elected Chair of the Committee. On motion of Hon. Mr. Savoie, Mr. Ames was elected Vice-Chair.

Your Committee met on December 15, 2020, in the Legislative Council Chamber and had under consideration the following Bill:

Bill 25, *An Act to Remove Certain Restrictive Covenants on Title to Certain Lands in The City of Saint John vested in Plazacorp Property Holdings Inc.*;

which it recommends to the favourable consideration of the House.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

I move, seconded by the Member for Carleton-York, that the report be concurred in by the House.

(Sgd. :) Ryan Cullins, M.L.A.
Chair

Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion of concurrence in the report of the Committee, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. K. Chiasson,
Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act.*

Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 26 that on Thursday, December 24, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

WHEREAS 49 MLAs represent the interests of their constituents throughout the province in the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS every Member of the Legislative Assembly should have the opportunity to participate fully in the business of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, under the guidance of Public Health and Public Safety, the province has enacted an Emergency Order that imposes certain restrictions on

gatherings which may vary from one region of the province to another based on outbreaks of the virus;

WHEREAS parliamentary bodies have had to adapt to the new reality of COVID-19 and modify the rules for participation by elected members in the affairs of Parliaments and/or Legislative Assemblies;

WHEREAS the technology is available to permit all elected members to participate in the affairs of the Legislative Assembly remotely through virtual participation;

WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada and other Legislative Assemblies have adopted the use of technologies that provide for virtual participation;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly has not adapted the use of technology for virtual participation for routine proceedings;

WHEREAS, given the ongoing threat of COVID-19, some Members of the Legislative Assembly may be reluctant to attend the Legislative Assembly out of concern for themselves and others;

WHEREAS a Member of the Legislative Assembly who might not be in favour of virtual technology should not be able to subvert the will of the Legislative Administration Committee whose members are supportive of using the technology for virtual sittings of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Economic Policy met and agreed to use virtual technology that would permit elected members to participate remotely;

WHEREAS the technology is available, has been tested, and can be put in operation right away;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Speaker to ensure that technology is immediately adopted in the Legislative Assembly that allows for virtual participation in the affairs of the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Savoie gave notice that on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, Bill 25 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne; following which the House would consider Motion 22.

The Order of the Day being read that the House proceed to take into further consideration the proposed Address in answer to Her Honour's speech at the opening of the session,

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Ms. Bockus, seconded by Mr. Cullins:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.
November 17, 2020.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

And the debate continuing,

And the debate being ended and the question being put thereon, it was agreed to without amendment.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that he had stood to request a recorded division. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken.

On motion of the Honourable the Premier, seconded by Hon. Mr. Steeves,

RESOLVED, that the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne be engrossed, signed by Mr. Speaker, and presented to Her Honour by a Committee of the House.

Ordered that the Honourable the Premier, Ms. Bockus and Mr. Cullins be the Committee to Wait upon Her Honour with the Address and present the same.

Hon. Mr. Steeves, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and the said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, all the Members standing, and is as follows:

Fredericton, New Brunswick.
December 15, 2020.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits the *Capital Estimates* for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, the *Supplementary Estimates 2020-2021, Volume I*, and the *Supplementary Estimates 2018-2019, Volume I*, required for the services of the Province, not otherwise provided for, and in accordance with the provisions of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, recommends these estimates to the House.

(Sgd. :) Brenda Murphy.
Lieutenant-Governor.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 22, Hon. Mr. Steeves moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT this House approves in general the capital budgetary policy of the government.

And the question being put, Hon. Mr. Steeves proceeded to deliver the 2021-2022 capital budget speech.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to be granted to Her Majesty forthwith.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Ms. S. Wilson in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Ms. S. Wilson, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee proceeding in the matter under consideration, had passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Supply be granted to Her Majesty.

And she was directed to ask leave to sit again.

Ms. S. Wilson moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT the House does concur with the Committee of Supply in its report and agrees in its resolution that Supply be granted to Her Majesty.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House, moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT consideration of estimates in Committee of Supply be added to the Orders of the Day until such time as they are dispatched.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 3.12 p.m., the House adjourned.