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DESCRIPTION

1361

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1361

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1361

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 25, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 1966

Committee Clerk Signature

Morgan Reese

Minutes:

Rep. Kingsbury: *I have to make an apology also. There was on Representative and one Senator on this bill. We were nervous before getting it in before the deadline and then I got a notice that many more were going to support it. This bill is an appropriated amount of money in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, of a sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum that would be necessary to the Adjutant General for the purpose of distributing on the equal matching funds basis for up to \$25,000 per political subdivisions, for the maintenance and repair of political subdivision owned armories. This is for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2009. Many of our smaller towns have armories that are owned by the town and are used for a lot of other purposes and we feel that they are getting older and need constant repair and upgrading. So we would like some help. The one in Grafton that is used a lot and we appreciate the building and help with repairing it. Before approval of a project by the Adjutant General under the matching grant program, he must conduct a major repair and maintenance survey on political subdivision owned armories and provide a written report. So there is research first before anything is appropriated. With that I urge your support for HB 1361.*

Rep. Dahl: Has the state ever done these types of grants before, or is this the first time?

Rep. Kingsbury: It has happened once before.

Rep. Amerman: Is this all new language, or what are we doing?

Rep. Haas: It is an appropriation. I would say that this is all new language.

Rep. Froseth: I believe two sessions ago that we had a bill quite similar to this, I'm not sure if the money was the same or not. It went through political subdivisions and I believe it passed. I don't know how much was appropriated

Rep. Kingsbury: I don't have the answer to that.

Connie Sprynczynatyk: Testimony Attached.

Russel Ziegler: Mayor of Hettinger. We would like to support this bill also. Hettinger has a small population. We use the armory for a gymnasium for our school for the junior high program. We have been doing so, and we need materials like new windows, etc, that the city cannot afford to do on its own. We did receive a national grant fund the previous session and we did improve. The armories are getting older, and we are in favor of this.

Rep. Haas: Do you allocate any of your budget in your city for the ongoing maintenance of the armory?

Russel Ziegler: Yes

Rep. Haas: Could you tell us about how much?

Russel Ziegler: Last year we allocated \$29,272.

Rep. Haas: Was that for the calendar year 2006?

Russel Ziegler: Correct

Rep. Haas: Did you spend all of it on the eminence?

Russel Ziegler: Year to date we have spent \$20,564.

Rep. Haas: Thank you.

Donald Frye: Mayor of Carrington. Testimony Attached.

Rep. Amerman: The \$250,000 since 1997, is this an assessment that the city made?

Donald Frye: That is correct. That doesn't include the resources that we received in 2001.

That figure could be wrong.

Rep. Kasper: Do you have the levy authority to levy deals?

Donald Frye: Presently what we do is we budget this out of a general fund, which is part of our general property taxes. We have a budget for 2007 of \$35,013 this year for the armory. A portion of that certainly is for repairs and maintenance. One of the biggest expenditures in the armory is the heating system. In 2004, that expenditure was \$11,000. In the 2006 the expenditure was \$19,350. We believe we can reduce that by a quarter percent.

Rep. Kasper: Are you at your maximum bill levy that you can levy for expenses like this?

Donald Frye: Yes we are at our maximum.

Rep. Haas: So the amount of money that you actually budget is includes maintenance, repairs, and utilities?

Donald Frye: That is correct. On the revenue sometimes people don't provide information. Our revenues are \$14,300 for the use of that armory. That includes rentals, and revenue received.

Colonel Dave Anderson: I have helped with this program when it was first passed in 2001. I'm mainly here to collect your support from the previous session and the ongoing session. The outpouring of support is amazing and is what helps keep the soldiers going. I really support the bill, but however I am mainly here to just answer questions. I know you asked about the language. With the committee's approval we got the contracts set up with the cities.

Rep. Haas: What committee are you referring to?

Colonel Dave Anderson: The budget section.

Rep. Haas: I heard earlier that the appropriation is the same amount as last time. Has that money been expended and matched dollar for dollar?

Colonel Dave Anderson: Yes, it was.

Rep. Froseth: Couldn't this be a part of your overall appropriations for the National Guard?

Colonel Dave Anderson: Yes, we have seven state owned armories and that is where we apply our funds. These are city owned armories so we can't use it as part of our appropriation.

Rep. Weiler: How would the political subdivision need to raise this money for a matching grant? Would it just be for the funds that they have in the fund, or would they need to raise the money aside from that? It says in here that the funds have been distributed based on rules adopted by the Adjutant General.

Colonel Dave Anderson: We use the rules to help prioritize. We have more requests than we have funds for. We would apply rules on how we would distribute the funds. The city had set funds aside for projects. They had that already in the general fund or another fund. The rules referred to there are when we sent this out last time we asked for a background and city use of the armory. We asked how much they put into the armory. I'm not sure what the committee would look for but are reported for background. We try to get as much as we could. The way it turned out is by the time we worked out the matching for the cities, we were able to give money to the cities for the total of what they asked for. Some only asked for \$8 or \$10,000, and we were able to match that in full. The higher amounts, were able to get matching funds.

Rep. Amerman: Can you tell me what this one line means when it says that priority must be given to those major maintenance repair projects by which the local political subdivision contributes the highest ratio of political subdivision fund for each dollar. Does that mean that some of the armories are going to get priority by the amount they raise?

Colonel Dave Anderson: As we interpret, yes. The ratio was if they had more requests , we

were able to find more for the matching. Those would get a higher priority if we had more competing for funds.

Rep. Amerman: If you take 18 times the max of \$25,000 which each one can receive, that is \$450,000. The bill asks for \$250,000. There is a possibility that some requesting may not get anything? Is that correct?

Colonel Dave Anderson: It is possible sir, depending on how you work through it. It didn't happen last time, but as I interpret the language if we go for the cities that apply the most ratio it is possible.

Rep. Haas: I think I heard you say that all 18 of those armories got something last round?

Colonel Dave Anderson: Yes that is the way it worked out based on. Some asked for a smaller amount than the maximum that was available. Just the way it worked out was that we were able to satisfy up to the maximum.

Rep. Kasper: Does the guard have a lease arrangement with the city owned armories? Generally when an entity rents a building you could get into a net lease where the renter pays all the expenses. Has it ever been discussed with the National Guard to pay more in rent to these cities so they would have enough to take care of this?

Colonel Dave Anderson: It has been discussed but I believe that a rent amounts are set by the legislature.

Rep. Haas: But isn't it also true that the National Guard is not the exclusive user of these armories?

Colonel Dave Anderson: That is true.

Rep. Haas: Are there any other questions? Any additional testimony for HB 1361? If not we will close the hearing on HB 1361.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1361

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 25, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 1971

Committee Clerk Signature

Morgan Penning

Minutes:

Rep. Haas: Let's open HB 1361 for discussion, the bill on the armory.

Rep. Grande: For discussion purposes I guess I'm a little confused to as if these are owned by the political subdivisions, the armories are paying the rent, so why is the state paying for the maintenance?

Rep. Haas: My understanding and correct me if I'm wrong. The National Guard rents those armories and uses them for a certain amount of time, but they aren't used full time by the National Guard. There is other events and all kinds of things city sponsored and school sponsored, etc. The problem it seems to me is that whatever they are being used for, including the National Guard, whatever the rent is, never is enough to pay for the utilities and the upkeep.

Rep. Grande: So why is it the state's responsibility to look at those bills? They are political subdivision owned entities.

Rep. Potter: Originally were they partially community owned, or were they originally state owned because they were National Guard buildings, and then the community started using them?

Rep. Haas: I'm not 100% sure of the answer to that question. I got the impression that they have always been locally, municipality owned.

Rep. Boehning: Can't they go to the people that are voting and increase the mills? So that if the local community wanted to have the next expansion on the remodeling project, I would assume that they could get it included on the ballot.

Rep. Froseth: I think if you look at that list a lot of these were built in World War 2 days and some a lot earlier. I'm a little familiar with the one in Bottineau. I don't know how it came about being built, but the National Guard probably uses the building twice a week for training sessions. They aren't full time. The rent that is being negotiated is barely enough to keep up the condition that they need to be in. Some other income from the city and private people would help. I know we rented the one in Bottineau for an auction sale one time. It is used for those types of things. The guard doesn't contribute enough rent to keep them in the repairs that they need to be.

Rep. Haas: Any further comments?

Rep. Grande: Almost half of them were built in the 1960's to the current time. The rest are older than the 1960's. I don't know the purpose of having put up all of these.

Rep. Froseth: I think the purpose was to keep the National Guard units in their hometowns. It then enticed and inspired people of those communities to join the National Guard because it was right there. In case of emergencies the National Guard was right their in their town.

Rep. Haas: Yes, I think that was part of the rational when they were built.

Rep. Grande: It still falls back to my initial question and comment. Why is the state paying for these buildings then?

Rep. Potter: I don't know if this helps with that or not, but with the city of Carrington, it says in

1942 the City of Carrington, the ND National Guard and the State of ND formed a partnership relating to it's construction for the armory.

Rep. Weiler: Did you say the city and the state owned the partnership?

Rep. Potter: It says the City of Carrington, the North Dakota National Guard, and the state of ND formed a partnership relating to the construction of the first phase of the armory to address our state during WW2. It says in 1953 that partnership was once again used to complete the second phase of construction, to meet the needs of our state and nation during the Cold War. Then it says now today they are requesting to renew that partnership.

Rep. Haas: So the implication of that would be in that original construction and perhaps the addition in 1953, there probably was a cost sharing between the state, city, and National Guard. That is one of the reasons that I ask the questions about how much money they are budgeting out of their city budget to help maintain those buildings. It was substantial. It was some \$30,000/year. They are making some efforts. They are budgeting and paying for some of those things.

Rep. Kasper: When someone rents a building like that, when it is primary the National Guard's, when the primary function is the National Guard they ought to have a lease with the National Guard that covers all the maintenance costs or a good part of them. It appears to me that maybe they have not been updating their costs and rents to the National Guard. That is called a triple net lease when all of the expenses are covered.

Rep. Haas: That may be well and good but then it is once force or the other. If they increase the lease then when the National Guard builds their budget we are going to pay for it in their budget.

Rep. Kasper: But this is an ongoing expense.

Rep. Haas: Yes. Perhaps they wouldn't have to come back every two sessions to ask for a grant.

Rep. Dahl: Didn't they say that those lease agreements are governed by state law?

Rep. Haas: Yes they did.

Rep. Kasper: Maybe we need to find out what the state law is governing those limitations.

Rep. Grande: One of my concerns with that type of thing, the lease agreement, is that I would like to know at the different locations how much the National Guard is using them. Are these obsolete that they are really aren't using them? I wouldn't want to pay the ongoing maintenance if these buildings aren't really being used.

Rep. Kasper: What they would do if they were using those buildings 50% of the time then they would negotiate that they would come up with an additional rental.

Rep. Haas: I am going to appoint a subcommittee to this to answer the main questions that we have posed here. Your best source is going to be Colonel Anderson to tell you what the contracts are, what the terms of the contracts are, what the state limits on rent that they can pay, or lease that they can pay, etc. So Rep. Kasper will you chair that committee?

Rep. Kasper: Yes.

Rep. Haas: Finding the information that we are going to need is going to be a very urgent task because we will have to have all the information one week from today so we can act on it. Rep. Weiler, will you serve on the committee?

Rep. Weiler: Absolutely.

Rep. Haas: Rep. Amerman will you also serve?

Rep. Amerman: Yes

Rep. Haas: And Rep. Kasper you will chair this committee.

Rep. Kasper: Thank you.

Rep. Grande: This is an appropriation so we have to kick it out next Thursday.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1361

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 1, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2522

Committee Clerk Signature

Margaret Reville

Minutes:

Rep. Haas: Rep. Kasper was working on some possible amendments or some suggestions and gathering additional information before we acted on this bill.

Rep. Kasper: I got an email from LTC. Tabor. I asked him to respond to some of the concerns that our committee had. One of the concerns that I had was why can't the National Guard increase rental fees to the city. He said that as they discussed increasing rental fees that the National Guard pays to the city does not insure that the city will be able to put the money back into the armory to improve conditions. As we both know there are many fiscal demands competing for the dollar amounts. If this bill is written it will allow the office of the AG to have input into how the appropriated dollars will be used to help our soldiers. How are rental rates established/ The rental rates were initially established through negotiations with the cities and the National Guard. The armory rentals fees have not seen an increase since the 1985 session. The office of the AG requested an increase to our budget to raise armory rents during the 1999 session and again this session. Our agency was unsuccessful in getting that included in our budget. Who approves the requests for increases to the rental amounts? The rental requests are submitted as optional budget items for our agency. If OMB approves the inclusion of the optional budget item it is included as part of our overall agency budget submission to the

appropriations committees for approval. They are trying to raise the rates but can't get it done. These armories need repair, they don't want to just raise the rates because they might not get repair. This is the only way that they have to get around the problem of repairing the armories and control the costs to make sure it is done. Our subcommittee met by email and Rep. Amerman and Rep. Weiler did an admiral job.

Rep. Kasper: I move a do pass.

Rep. Amerman: I second that

Rep. Haas: Is there any discussion?

Rep. Boehning: I guess the problem that I have with this is if the army is absent for the money are they going to come ask us for more? The National Guard is asking for a rent increase but I don't see the state is asking for it.

Rep. Kasper: I would assume that the guard is asking the appropriations for the increase because they are being asked by their landowners and they aren't getting it.

Rep. Boehning: I'm thinking they need a rent increase since they have had the same since 1985. That is 22 years.

Rep. Haas: Thank you subcommittee for digging into this and getting the answers to the questions we had. I think its incumbent upon this committee knowing the situation and background and the inability of the National Guard to include money in their budget. I think it's incumbent on all of us to talk to the appropriations people. I think this is a pretty high priority. I think we need to put some pressure on appropriations to make sure this happens. I think in response to your comment, I'm sure that the cities probably ask annually if they can increase rates. I'm sure the National Guard simply says they don't have the money. I think it's also noteworthy that if you recall the testimony from some of the people that represented the cities, there wasn't any city that didn't have an appropriation in their budget to help maintain those

armories. Many of them have spent a lot of money for roof repair, heating, etc. They have done that on their own which is appropriate. I don't think it's a situation where this is all deferred maintenance. Frankly \$25,000 isn't a whole lot of money when you start talking about maintenance. There is a matching grant program that is probably dollar for dollar.

Rep. Haas: Is there any further discussion on a do pass and re referred to appropriations motion on HB 1361? If not we will take a roll call vote on HB 1361. The do pass and re refer to appropriations on HB 1361 passes with a vote of 9-2-2. Is there a volunteer to carry this bill?

Rep. Amerman: I will.

Date: 2-1-07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

HB 1361

Action Taken

DO PASS + re-referred to APPROP.

Motion Made By

Rep Kasper

Seconded By

Rep Amerman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Rep. Bette Grande VC			Rep. Louise Potter	X	
Rep. Randy Boehning		X	Rep. Jasper Schneider		
Rep. Stacey Dahl	X		Rep. Lisa Wolf	X	
Rep. Glen Froseth	X				
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Jim Kasper	X				
Rep. Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Dave Weiler		X			

Total (Yes) 9 No 2

Absent

2

Floor Assignment

Rep. Amerman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1361: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (9 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1361 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2007 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1361

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1361

House Appropriations Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 9, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3307

Committee Clerk Signature

Shirley Branning

Minutes:

Chm. Svedjen called the meeting to order to take up HB 1361, a bill relating to an appropriation to the adjutant general for maintenance and repair of political sub-division-owned armories through matching funds, by calling on **Rep. Haas**, District 36.

Rep. Haas explained that the bill would appropriate \$250,000 for an equal matching for up to \$25,000 per political subdivision. There had been discussion in committee regarding the critical need for armory maintenance. The question was why rent cannot be raised from the National Guard. The subcommittee, including **Reps. Kasper, Weiler and Amerman** was asked to look into this further. It is felt that there should be a contract for rent with the guard. Specifications could be put into the contract that would require how the rental money is spent. They asked how rental rates are established, and the answer was, through negotiations with the National Guard and the cities. The armory rental fees have not seen an increase in 22 years. If the issue of deferred maintenance on armories we either need to allow the National Guard and the cities to negotiate increased rental fees or appropriate this money and let them distribute it on a grant basis. The third question was in regard to who approves the increases to the rental amounts. There was no question in the committee's mind for a need for additional funds to go either in the form of rent or grants to help with the maintenance, repair and upkeep of the armories.

Rep. Kempenich: When did we get quite a bit of federal money for armories, was it '99? Did they have any history on their maintenance and stuff?

Rep. Haas: Yes, 1999 was the last time appropriations.....and it was not included in the National Guard budget as a way to increase rental fees. It was put out as a needs basis but I can't tell you if it was a match or not.

Chm. Svedjen: The legislature regulates the amount of rent collected from the Guard for armories?

Rep. Haas: That is what we heard in testimony from Lt. Col Tabor.

Chm. Svedjen: Do you know if the adjutant general requested more funds for the purpose of paying higher rents?

Rep. Haas: Yes, they did. They requested an increase to our budgets to increase the rents in the '99 and again in this session and it was not included.

Rep. Metcalf: Cities have been threatened, that if you don't want to maintain your armory then we will move your unit to some other place. Cities don't want to lose their armories and concede to paying for repairs. All armories were built with a combination of federal and city funds. The local National Guard is never involved in how much rent is going to be paid, that is between the adjutant general and city.

Rep. Nelson: How many armories do we have that fit into this category?

Rep. Haas: There are 18. We had testimony from 8 of them.

Rep. Nelson: Do they have needs?

Rep. Haas: Varying needs, \$250,000 would be enough and there was no problem with the cities in that regard. The money would be put out on a grant basis.

Chm. Svedjen: Why wasn't this bill written to address the rent rather than the state paying for extraordinary repairs?

Rep. Haas: Our committee asked that question, too. A more appropriate way would be for the National Guard budget to be increased and giving them the authority to negotiate new rental agreements with the communities.

Rep. Glassheim: Why wasn't this in the Governor's budget for extraordinary repairs and one-time expenditures. In the Governor's budget it says that there is \$625,000 of deferred maintenance at state supported facilities. The Guard budget is at \$21m.

Rep. Haas: The needs are critical and we can't wait 2 years to address it. My recommendation to the committee is to send it out with a Do Pass, get it over to the Senate and modify it in a way to get it into the National Guard budget and give them authority to negotiate new agreements with the cities.

Rep. Wald: Would it make more sense for us to kill this bill, when the National Guard bill comes over, fix this problem then?

Rep. Haas: If we had assurances that we can fix this problem in the National Guard bill, I'd have no problems with that.

Rep. Carlisle: Question for OMB, this was not a priority in the Governor's budget. What is the status?

Tammy Dolan, OMB Representative: Yes, the Adjutant General did have an optional request did have an optional request for \$132,000 for rental increase.

Rep. Gulleason: I would prefer to pass this and show a level of importance and priority.

Rep. Skarphol: In the budget detail for the Adjutant General's office there was a 0 appropriation in '03-'05, in '05-'07 there is a \$181,258 in grant in that line item which is a 200% increase in the pervious 2 bienniums.

Dolan: Believe it was because the Department of Emergency Services was combined into the Adjutant General's office. Previously they were two separate agencies.

Rep. Skarphol: Further questions the Governor's budget, extraordinary repairs line item this biennium it is \$625,000.

Dolan: That is for extraordinary repairs on state owned facilities.

Rep. Skarphol: The Adjutant General could take \$125,000 out of that to give to these communities and use \$500,000 for his own purposes.

Rep. Skarphol moved a Do Not Pass to HB 1361. Rep. Carlisle seconded the motion.

The Do Not Pass motion carried by a roll call vote of 13 yeas, 9 nays, 2 absent and not voting. Rep Skarphol will be the carrier of the bill.

Date: 2/9/07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1361

House Appropriations Full Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken No not pass

Motion Made By Sharphol Seconded By Carlisle

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Svedjan	✓				
Vice Chairman Kempenich	✓				
Representative Wald	✓		Representative Aarsvold	✓	
Representative Monson		✓	Representative Gulleason		✓
Representative Hawken	✓				
Representative Klein		✓			
Representative Martinson	✓				
Representative Carlson	✓		Representative Glassheim	✓	
Representative Carlisle	✓		Representative Kroeber		✓
Representative Skarphol	✓		Representative Williams	✓	
Representative Thoreson	✓				
Representative Pollert		✓	Representative Ekstrom		✓
Representative Bellew	✓		Representative Kerzman		✓
Representative Kreidt	✓		Representative Metcalf		✓
Representative Nelson		✓			
Representative Wieland	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 9

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Sharphol

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 10, 2007 6:20 p.m.

Module No: HR-28-2796
Carrier: Skarphol
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1361: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (13 YEAS, 9 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1361 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HB 1361

HB 1361
House Government & Veterans Affairs
January 25, 2007

Garry Opp
Mayor, City of Oakes

The City of Oakes requests your consideration of a grant fund in the amount of \$250,000 to improve the Oakes Armory and other armories. Our facility plays a major role in activities for our community. We are requesting financial assistance to upkeep the building to meet the needs of our residents.

The Oakes Armory was built in 1957. Many additional improvements have been made including a roof replacement and a new front door entry in 2002 with the help of a similar grant fund that was passed in 2001 (HB 1215).

This building serves multiple purposes for our residents and provides space for many community activities. It is the home of the Co A (-) 142nd ECB (HV). The Oakes Public School uses the facility as a second gymnasium to hold practices, games, and other activities. The Prairie Twisters, our local gymnastics team, also uses the building for practices and performances. The list of uses includes many other activities and fundraisers including the annual Oakes Chamber of Commerce Santa Night and annual 4-H Family Carnival.

The building is in need of numerous repairs and improvements to extend the building's life and assure the school and other organizations in town the continued use of the facility. Our major concern for the building is heating costs. To help maintain efficient heating the roof is in need of insulation, the electrical wiring will need to be upgraded and windows will need to be replaced. In addition, a new heating source will need to be installed. Other repairs and improvements include retiling the gymnasium floor, replacing doors, and minor cosmetic upgrades.

The following are estimated costs according to our local businesses:

Ceiling Insulation.....	\$30,000.00
Electrical Wiring & Lighting Upgrade.....	\$10,000.00
Windows	\$10,000.00

Total Costs.....	\$50,000.00
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City Share (50%)	\$25,000.00
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To complete all the needed improvements, the city will be placed in a financial strain. We do not have the resources to pay for all the costs involved with making the necessary repairs. To have a place for our community to use and make sure this place can remain an available location is very important to the City of Oakes. Without your help, these improvements will take many years to complete.

Please consider the option of allowing grants to help pay for repair costs for the armories.



CITY OF DICKINSON

99 2ND STREET EAST • DICKINSON, ND 58601

www.dickinsonnd.com

January 24, 2007

- Administration
- Finance
701-456-7744
Fax 701-456-7723

Representative C.B. Haas
Chairman, House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
ND Legislature
Bismarck, ND 58501

- City Assessor
701-456-7734

Dear Representative Haas and Members of the Committee:

- Fire
701-456-7625

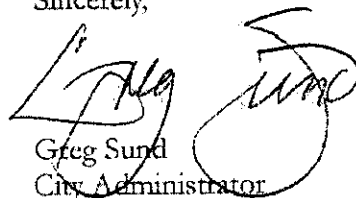
I am writing in support of HB 1361, which continues a program to provide grants for improvements to armories around the State. Like other armories, the Dickinson Armory was constructed in 1970 and is showing its age. The city of Dickinson considers the Armory an asset for our community and works to keep it well maintained. We work with the National Guard to identify concerns with the building in planning improvements and maintenance. In 2006-2007 we are contracting with ESG, an engineering firm, which is assessing the energy efficiency of the Armory and other City-owned buildings. In their final report, which we plan to implement, they will recommend changes to the armory that will improve its energy efficiency. We are also looking to purchase a generator to operate the building in case of power loss.

- Municipal Court
701-456-7726

There are more projects than money, so I strongly encourage the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee to vote a "do pass" on HB 1361.

- Police Department
701-456-7759
Fax 701-456-7680

Sincerely,



Greg Sund
City Administrator

- Building Inspector
- Cemetery
- Engineering
- Solid Waste
- Streets
- Wastewater
- Water
701-456-7744

- Special Assessments
701-456-7720

Kasper, Jim M.

From: Kasper, Jim M.
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 2:08 PM
To: Weiler, Dave A.; Amerman, Bill D.; Haas, C. B.
Cc: Kasper, Jim M.
Subject: FW: Request for information regarding armory rentals.--HB 1361 additional information--from Rep. Jim Kasper--1/30/07

Reps. Weiler, Amerman and Haas:

I visited with LTC Tabor regarding our Armory Bill and here is his response.

Please review and I would like our three man sub-committee to get together for a few minutes later today if at all possible.

Chairman Haas, this is for your information to keep you in the loop.

Rep. Jim Kasper

-----Original Message-----

From: Tabor, Steve LTC NGND [mailto:steven.tabor@us.army.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 1:53 PM
To: Kasper, Jim M.
Cc: Anderson, Dave COL NGND
Subject: Request for information regarding armory rentals.

Representative Kasper: Per our discussion yesterday afternoon, I am providing the following information to your questions regarding HB 1361.

1. Why can't the National Guard increase rental fees to the cities and have the cities fund armory improvement for our soldiers?

As we discussed, increasing the rental fees that the National Guard pays to the city does not ensure that the city will be able to put that money back into the armory to improve conditions for our soldiers. As we both know, there are many fiscal demands competing for the limited dollar resources available to the cities. This bill, as written, will allow the Office of the Adjutant General to have input into how the appropriated dollars will be used to help our soldiers.

2. How are rental rates established?

The rental rates were initially established thru negotiations with the cities and the National Guard. The armory rentals fees have not seen an increase since the 1985 session. The Office of the Adjutant General requested an increase to our budget to raise armory rents during the 1999 session and again this session. Our agency was unsuccessful in getting that included in our budget.

3. Who approves the requests for increases to the rental amounts?

The rental requests are submitted as optional budget items for our agency. If OMB approves the inclusion of the optional budget item it is included as part of our overall agency budget submission to the appropriations committees for approval.

If you have any further questions please contact me at numbers provided below.

Dave A. Tabor, LTC
Architect, JFND-DFE
Comm (701) 333-2075



POST OFFICE BOX 1306
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA 58802-1306
PHONE (701) 577-8100
FAX (701) 577-8880
TDD (800) 366-6888
(State Relay)

CITY OF *Williston* NORTH DAKOTA

January 22, 2007

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

RE: HB 1361

Dear Committee Members:

The City of Williston is very pleased to see HB 1361 which would allow a matching grant of \$25,000 for maintenance and repair of political subdivision-owned armories. The City of Williston armory was built in the early 1960's. A building of this age requires considerable maintenance, and the City has not been able to budget for all of the necessary improvements. The rental received from the Office of Adjutant General has in fact decreased from \$12,000 annually in 1985 to \$9,256 and has remained constant for the last several years.

There are many renovations that we would like to make in the National Guard area of the building, and such a grant would mean the difference between a band-aid approach and an actual improvement to the area. The Williston City Commission asks that you recommend passage of HB 1361 to allow our cities to improve these facilities so important to the North Dakota National Guard and their training. Our National Guard members deserve the best facilities that can be provided.

Sincerely,

E. Ward Koeser
President
Board of City Commissioners
City of Williston

EWK:skk

The City of Lisbon

LISBON, NORTH DAKOTA 58054

January 24, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

At this time, I would like show my support for HB #1361. The City of Lisbon Armory currently receives tax dollars and rent in the amount of approximately \$17,600.00 each year for financial support. Major expenses and every other day expenses exceed the support we receive. An equal matching fund basis grant of up to \$25,000.00 would help repair the public owned armories. Currently our armory needs a new roof, overhead door, furnace and other incidentals.

Again, I support HB #1361, and hope it receives serious attention at the 60th North Dakota Legislative Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,



L. Ross Cole, Mayor
City of Lisbon

LRC:rae

The City of Lisbon

LISBON, NORTH DAKOTA 58054

PRIORITIZED LIST OF REPAIRS LISBON CITY ARMORY

❖	Roof over gym portion of Armory	\$45,000.00
❖	Overhead Door	\$ 5,000.00
❖	Furnace Upgrade	\$ 7,000.00
❖	New Interior Doors & Locks	\$ 8,000.00
❖	Paint Interior	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>

TOTAL ESTIMATED REPAIRS

\$68,000.00

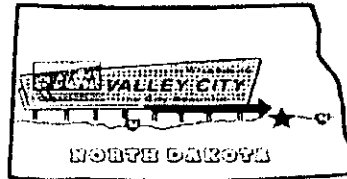
North Dakota National Guard

Unit Armories

CITY	UNIT	Year BUILT
Bottineau	1/132 QM Co	1941
Cando	3/132 QM Co	1957
Carrington	Det 1/A Co 141 Eng	1941
Cavalier	134 QM Det	1930
Dickinson	C Co 164 Eng Bn	1973
Edgeley	A (-) 141 Eng Bn	1963
Grafton	133 Qm Det	1956
Hazen	Det 1 A Co/164	1965
Hettinger	Det 2/C Co/141	1962
Jamestown	B Co/141 Eng Bn	1974
Lisbon	Det 1/142 Eng Bn	1958
Mayville	Det /142 Eng Bn	1958
Mott	Det 1/C Co/141	1960
Oakes	A (-) 142 Eng Bn	1958
Rugby	2/132 QM Co	1957
Valley City	141 Eng Bn	1971
Williston	B Co/164	1958
Wishek	A/141 EB	1965

CITY OF VALLEY CITY

CITY HALL OFFICE AT 254 2ND AVE. NE
VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA 58072-0390



P.O. BOX 390
701-845-1700

Chairperson Haas and Committee Members:

I am Mary Lee Nielson, Mayor of the City of Valley City. I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1361.

By providing a similar program for matching grants for maintenance and repair of local armories in 2003 the City of Valley City was able to update an antiquated heating and cooling system and fix some plumbing issues.

It is important to keep these publicly used buildings in good repair. In Valley City we have thousands of people using this building every year. The North Dakota Winter Show hosts an antique show, craft fair, and tasting bee in our armory. The National Guard personnel are genial hosts.

The City of Valley City strives to keep this building in excellent shape and we provide dollars for maintenance every year in our budget. Bigger projects are harder to finance. Through this program the financial bite is manageable and not a budget buster.

We ask that you support this bill to provide matching grants that are so important to small towns like Valley City.

Mary Lee Nielson, Mayor
City of Valley City



CITY OF MAYVILLE

21 1ST STREET NE

P.O. BOX 220

MAYVILLE, ND 58257

January 22, 2007

Connie Sprynczynatyk
Executive Director
ND League of Cities

Dear Connie:

This letter is to state that the City of Mayville is in full support of the Bill that the League has introduced to re-create a grant fund for Armories. I have sent Colonel David B. Anderson letters on two occasions last year sharing my concerns about the Mayville Armory and what I thought were some priority projects and listed the projects the City has taken on on its own.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Winger".

Gary Winger
City Auditor
City of Mayville