

MINUTES

WYANDOTTE COUNTY INTERIM SPECIAL COMMITTEE

July 20, 1976

Members present:

Senator Jack Steineger, Chairman
Senator Bill Mulich
Representative Norman Justice
Representative David Mikesic
Representative John Sutter

Staff present:

Robert L. Kennedy, Administrative Assistant to Senate Minority Leader

Chairman Steineger called the meeting to order in the Wyandotte County Commissioner's meeting room, Wyandotte County Courthouse, at 4:00 p.m.

The Chairman welcomed the various representatives of local government who were present and made a short statement regarding the purpose of the Wyandotte County Interim Special Committee.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Senator Mulich moved that the two scheduled meetings which the committee will conduct should be held at the J. C. Harmon school in Argentine and the Community Junior College. Representative Mikesic seconded the motion; and after agreement that the Community Junior College meeting should be held on September 29, at 7:00 p.m., and the October 13 meeting should be held at the J. C. Harmon school at 7:00 p.m., the motion carried.

TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED

The Committee discussed the subjects which should be considered in the next two meetings. The local government leaders who were present were asked for their opinions as to matters which should

come before the Committee. The following matters were determined to be among those which should be studied. The Committee agreed to hear testimony on these matters at the next meeting while agreeing that other matters might be added at a later date.

City-County Health Department Problems

Representative Justice moved to invite the department heads of the Health Department to the next meeting. He also moved to extend an invitation to employees of the department to appear and be heard. Senator Mulich seconded the motion and it carried.

Since air pollution problems are normally referred to the Health Department, representatives of the BPU requested Mr. Ralph Tireny be invited at the same time.

Use-Value Property Appraisal - Constitutional Amendment

There was a general discussion of the proposed constitutional amendment and agreement that too little is known about the possible effects its passage might have on Wyandotte County. The Chairman asked Mr. Pat Scherzer, County Assessor, to present his estimate of possible effects at the next meeting. It was agreed the staff should develop as much information on this subject as possible for submission to the Committee.

State and Highway Funding

The Chairman voiced his concern relative to suggestions being voiced in Topeka to the effect that certain highways may be deleted from the highway network which qualifies for state maintenance funds. He asked Commissioner Tom Lally to attend the next meeting of

the Committee so that he can present his estimate of this problem.

Food Stamps

The Chairman stated that Representative Cooper, who was unable to be at this meeting because he was meeting with the Select Committee on Bingo, had asked that the Committee look into the Food Stamp Distribution Program in Wyandotte County. The Chairman asked Representative Justice to provide him with the names of officials supervising the Food Stamp Program so that they could be invited to appear at the next meeting.

City-County Consolidation

There was some discussion as to whether the Committee should study this matter. No decision was reached. However, the staff was asked to send copies of Senate Bill No. 732 and House Bill No. 2446 to Committee members so that the matter could be discussed at the next meeting.

Requests and Comments from Local Officials

County Treasurer, Paul Antos, stated that he was very disappointed that the recent legislation which increased motor vehicle registration by some 35 percent had failed to increase the handling fees which the counties may retain in exchange for administering the registration program. He said that the county's share of the fees had remained the same despite the fact that personnel costs had skyrocketed. He stated that he felt that the state was not treating the counties fairly in that they were transferring substantial financial costs to the counties. He was of the opinion that the state

should either provide the financial support for the program or the state should take it over completely. Representative Sutter moved that a bill be drafted for introduction before the 1977 Session which would provide the counties with an equitable share of the registration fees. Senator Mulich seconded and the motion passed.

Ed Mayfield, County Clerk, stated that a problem was developing in the collection of property taxes on property foreclosed by the Small Business Administration. While the FHA and VA foreclosures are not exempt from the property tax liability, Kansas law has provided an exemption for such SBA properties. Mr. Mayfield recommended that this matter be studied and that the Kansas law be changed. Senator Mulich moved to draft such a bill and that it be reported to the Committee at the next meeting. Representative Sutter seconded and the motion carried.

There was a general discussion of the desirability of staggered terms for members of the BPU. The Chairman asked BPU Board Members to submit their proposals on this subject to the next meeting.

On the motion of Representative Justice, the meeting adjourned until September 29, 1976.