

Approved Ivan Sand Jan 13/1983
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Local Government

The meeting was called to order by Representative Ivan Sand at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~XX~~ a.m./p.m. on January 12, 1983 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Chairman Ivan Sand called the meeting to order. Introductions were made by the Chairman and by each Committee member. Discussion followed on the ground rules of the Committee meetings.

Further introductions were made by the following lobbyists:

Tim Underwood, Kansas Association of Realtors
Janet Stubbs, Home Builders' Association of Kansas
Fred Allen, Kansas Association of Counties
E. A. Mosher, League of Kansas Municipalities
Jim Kaup, League of Kansas Municipalities
Mark Anson, Johnson County

Fred Allen asked the members to make tentative plans for a Committee dinner to be held on January 26, 1983. He stated that details would come later.

E. A. Mosher provided the members with copies of an explanation and description of the League of Kansas Municipalities (See Attachment I).

Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department, gave an overview of the Legislative interim studies conducted by the Special Committee on Local Government. He referred to the Report of Kansas Legislative Interim Studies to the 1983 Legislature, filed with the Legislative Coordinating Council, December, 1982. This overview included Proposal No. 24, Drainage Districts (pj. 357); Proposal No. 25, Sewer Assessment Laws (pj. 384); Proposal No. 26, Coordination of State Programs Related to Interstate and Interbasin Water Issues (pj. 397); and Proposal No. 35, Protest Petitions (pj. 552).

Meeting adjourned.

Ivan Sand

September, 1982

**T H E
L E A G U E
O F****K A N S A S****M U N I C I P A L I T I E S, 112 West Seventh Street, Topeka, Kansas 66603**

--an explanation and description of its organization, purposes and services

Established by municipal officials in 1910, the League of Kansas Municipalities is a voluntary, non-partisan federation of Kansas cities. It operates as a public agency and is defined by state laws as an instrumentality of its member cities. The powers and duties of the League are prescribed by state law and in bylaws adopted by the voting delegates of its member cities.

General Functions

The general functions and services of the League are summarized in this report. League bylaws outline the functions as (a) to provide local government information, research services and technical assistance, (b) to develop, promote and implement a statement of municipal policy, (c) to hold an annual conference and other meetings and (d) to perform such other services as may be necessary to secure the goals and objectives of the League.

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of the League are set forth in the convention-adopted bylaws as follows:

Capacity Building. To strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of local government, and its responsiveness to present and future public needs, by providing a broad range of programs and services designed to increase the governing, administrative and operating capacity of local governments and their officers and employees.

Policy Development. To strengthen the role and effectiveness of cities in our intergovernmental system, by representing and advocating the interests of its members in the development, implementation and administration of federal, state and interlocal policies and programs affecting cities.

Organization and Financing

Membership. The League currently has 512 member cities, which collectively represent 99% of the population of incorporated areas and 77% of the population of the state. Any city is eligible for League membership.

Research Subscribers. In addition to member cities, other governmental units may become subscribers to the League's research and publications service. All counties and many school districts are research subscribers.

City Voting Delegates. Under state laws, each member city may elect voting delegates to represent the city in League affairs. The city voting delegates adopt bylaws governing the League, establish the membership dues, elect League officers and adopt the official policies of the League.

Attch. 1

Governance. A governing body of municipal officials supervises and controls the affairs of the League, as authorized by state law and League bylaws. The 15-member governing body is elected at an annual convention of the voting delegates of member cities.

Research Committee. A research advisory committee of city, county and school officials recommends priorities for the principal research and publication services and activities of the League.

Administration. The day-to-day operations and administrative management of the League are charged to an executive director, who is appointed by and responsible to the governing body. The full-time professional and support staff is headquartered in Topeka.

Financing. The organizational services of the League are financed primarily from member dues and research subscriptions, and special service projects. City membership dues are based on a schedule approved by the voting delegates of member cities, and generally consists of a base charge, a 6¢ per capita fee, a 10 percent surcharge for each municipal utility and a charge equal to 25¢ per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, equalized to 100 percent. The League's proposed budget and an annual audit report are published in Kansas Government Journal.

Affiliate Associations. The League is a partnership of Kansas cities, not an association of local officials. However, it works closely with a number of state organizations of local officials. Groups which are informally affiliated with the League include: City Attorneys Association of Kansas; City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Kansas; Institute for Municipal Engineering/APWA; Kansas Association of City Managers; Kansas Mayors Association; Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police; Kansas Association of Fire Chiefs; Kansas Recreation and Park Association; Kansas Municipal Judges Association; Kansas Inspectors Association; Kansas Human Relations Association; and Kansas Association of Regional Planning Commissions. Newsletters are published in cooperation with some of these organizations.

DIRECT SERVICES OF THE LEAGUE

Inquiry Service

A major direct service of the League is to provide answers to questions about local government. The League annually answers about 3,000 inquiries from local officials, ranging from simple requests for a sample ordinance to complex questions requiring considerable research. A library and research files are maintained to help the professional staff promptly respond to requests for information and assistance.

Research and Publications

Research manuals, handbooks and other informational reports are continually prepared to help municipal officials meet their public responsibilities. Some examples include a manual for city clerks, handbook for the governing body and reports on such matters as home rule, annexation, investment of idle funds and interlocal cooperation.

Kansas Government Journal

This official monthly magazine of the League is specifically edited for more than 7,500 readers who share a common interest -- local government. The Journal includes articles, research reports and news items designed to assist local government officials in the conduct of public affairs.

Meetings and Conferences

In addition to the annual fall League conference and spring area meetings, the League sponsors or assists other agencies in the conduct of a number of schools, training courses, conferences and special meetings. These meetings serve as short courses on current or emerging local problems, providing an opportunity for local officials to exchange information and ideas and to hear experts on municipal affairs.

Advisory Legal Service

The League's legal staff renders advisory opinions on legal questions on request. Formal requests for advisory legal opinions should be requested by the governing body or its official attorney. Requests for informal opinions from cities not having an attorney may be submitted by any authorized official.

Ordinance Service

Sample copies of ordinances on nearly every conceivable subject are available on request from the League's extensive files. Model ordinances are periodically issued. The League also provides an ordinance modernization and codification service to member cities on a cost basis.

Special Bulletins

In addition to its general research and publications program, the League frequently issues special reports on current subjects. About 35 Research/Information Reports are issued annually.

Court Briefs

The League's legal staff, on behalf of its member cities, periodically files briefs with the Kansas supreme court or court of appeals on cases of major concern to local governments. Special emphasis has been given in past years to court litigation affecting the constitutional home rule powers of cities.

Consultation

Local officials are always welcome to drop in at League headquarters in Topeka to discuss municipal problems. By special arrangement, League staff members can occasionally provide a direct, on-site consultation service through field visits.

Special Insurance Program

A municipal insurance program endorsed by the League provides its member cities with the opportunity to purchase broad and comprehensive general liability protection; property and inland marine coverages; and worker's compensation coverage -- with all three coverages under a safety dividend program. Additionally, motor vehicle insurance is available at competitive rates, although not on a dividend basis.

The basic objectives of this League service are to secure the type of insurance coverages needed by Kansas cities -- particularly in the area of liability -- to provide financial savings to member cities, and to reward those cities which participate in the program, follow safety procedures and maintain a favorable loss ratio experience.

Other Special Services

Other services provided by the League to its supporting local governments include a directory of public officials, public service awards program for city employees and sponsorship of a Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance program. League staff members provide secretariat services to some of its affiliated associations. Staff members are available on occasion for presentations to local groups and represent the League and its members on a number of state councils and advisory agencies.

POLICY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Policy Development

One of the principal functions and services of the League is to advocate and represent the interests of its member cities in federal-state-local relations. A comprehensive statement of municipal policy is annually revised and adopted to officially set forth the consensus of needs, program objectives and goals of municipal officials throughout the state. The statement is developed by the officers and standing committees of the League and then considered and adopted at the annual convention of city voting delegates.

State Legislation

During and between legislative sessions, the staff of the League works closely with legislators and committees to promote and advocate the interests of its member cities and their residents. Over 100 city officials from throughout the state serve on various committees which help develop the League's policy positions and promote its legislative objectives, on behalf of all its member cities. Officials are kept informed of the status of important bills through regular and special legislative bulletins. The League attempts to serve as a responsible spokesman and advocate for its member cities, in accordance with convention-adopted policies and the decisions of representative committees. High priority is given to preservation of the home rule powers of local self-government and to the securing of financial resources to meet public needs at the local level.

Intergovernmental Relations

In addition to its policy development and state legislative program, the League endeavors to maintain an effective intergovernmental liaison service, with the objective of promoting the coordination and cooperation of all Kansas governments. Staff members frequently serve as advisory representatives in contacts between state agencies and local officials. The League monitors state and federal agencies and attempts to influence proposed state administrative rules and regulations and other actions affecting cities.

National Municipal Affairs

The League cooperates with other state Leagues and direct member cities on matters of national interest through membership in the National League of Cities, with headquarters in Washington, D.C. The League, and many Kansas city officials, are active in the NLC policy development process and in lobbying, through NLC, for the interest of cities in federal legislative and administrative developments. The publications, library and information services of NLC are generally available to League member cities.