

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Local Government

The meeting was called to order by Senator Don Montgomery at
Chairperson

9:08 a.m./~~PM~~ on Thursday, March 21, 1985, 19__ in room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators: Bogina, Daniels, Gaines, and Mulich who were excused

Committee staff present: Mike Heim, Theresa Kiernan, Emalene Correll, Lila McClaflin

Conferees appearing before the committee: Fred Logan, Johnson County, Prairie Village, KS
Scott Lambers, City of Overland Park
Jack Sanders, Public Safety Chairman, O.P., KS
Andrew Happer, Council President, Overland Park

The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

The hearing for H.B. 2112 was opened. Fred Logan, Johnson County, Prairie Village, KS. spoke in favor of the bill. The bill provides that the library board in Johnson County be increased from five to seven members. The bill would be effective upon publication in the Kansas Register. Mr. Logan stated the Johnson County Commissioners endorsed the bill, also, Duane Fox, State Librarian, It would give the board greater participation. It was thought it would be best for the bill to take effect immediately, since the present board expires, May 1, 1985, it would be in the best interest to go ahead and get the new members on at that time.

H.B. 2206, Scott Lambers, City of Overland Park, spoke briefly in support of the bill. The bill provides Overland Park with the authority for fire service delivery within their corporate boundaries. Mr. Lambers introduced Andrew Happer and Jack Sanders from Overland Park, who both spoke in support of the bill. Mr. Happer's written testimony is a part of these minutes (attachment 1). Mr. Sanders gave a brief history of how the fire service is set up now and why the proposed change. He read into record written testimony from Bill Janke, President of the Overland Park Fire Department, which is a part of these minutes (attachment 2).

There were no opponents present from Johnson County. Senator Langworthy stated she had spoke with Larry Winn III, council for water district #2, Johnson County, and they are maintaining a neutral stance. It will reduce their tax base 23% and they do realize that. It was expected that at sometime Overland Park would want their own fire department.

Senator Allen moved to pass H.B. 2206 favorably. Senator Langworthy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

H.B. 2112, Senator Allen moved to recommend it favorably for passage. Senator Langworthy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Salisbury moved to reconsider H.B. 2226, that was recommended favorably for passage yesterday. Senator Steineger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Ehrlich moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 1985, meeting. Senator Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Montgomery announced the meeting scheduled for March 22, 1985 would be cancelled.

The meeting adjourned until Monday, March 25, 1985.

REMARKS BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANDREW HAPPER
CITY OF OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS
BEFORE THE SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
REGARDING HB 2206
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1985

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS ANDREW HAPPER, AND I AM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF THE CITY OF OVERLAND PARK. I'M APPEARING BEFORE YOU IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2206.

FIRE SERVICE IS PROVIDED IN OVERLAND PARK BY FIRE DISTRICTS WHICH ARE GOVERNED BY FIRE BOARDS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. THE CITIES OF OLATHE, LEAWOOD, LENEXA, SHAWNEE AND MERRIAM HAVE CONTROL OF AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE SERVICE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. OVERLAND PARK DOES NOT. PASSAGE OF HB 2206 WILL PROVIDE US WITH AUTHORITY FOR FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY WITHIN OUR CORPORATE BOUNDARIES.

THE CITY OF OVERLAND PARK IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING ITS RESIDENTS ARE PROVIDED FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT MANNER. THE CITY BELIEVES IT SHOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE AND SECURE THE BEST METHOD FOR THE DELIVERY OF FIRE SERVICE WITHIN THE CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY. THE GOVERNING BODY FIRMLY BELIEVES THE CITY SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVISION OF FIRE SERVICE.

(attachment 1)

3/21/85

1. ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE FULLY TO OVERLAND PARK CITIZENS INSTEAD OF APPOINTED AUTONOMOUS BOARDS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIRE SERVICE.

2. THE PUBLIC WOULD MORE EASILY IDENTIFY WITH THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY REGARDING THE PROVISION OF FIRE SERVICE AND, AS SUCH, PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY WOULD BE HEIGHTENED.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THE BOARD OF JOHNSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE TAKEN NO POSITION ON THIS BILL.

WE HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE OVERLAND PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, A NONPROFIT ENTITY PROVIDING FIRE SERVICE PROTECTION WITHIN OUR CITY THROUGH CONTRACT WITH THE OVERLAND PARK FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 GOVERNING BOARD.

THE CITY INTENDS TO FOSTER MAXIMUM COOPERATION WITH ALL FIRE-SERVICE-PROVIDING AGENCIES IN THE COUNTY.

PASSAGE OF THIS BILL, I BELIEVE, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITIZENS OF OVERLAND PARK; AND WE URGE YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.

THANK YOU.

OVERLAND PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Johnson County, Kansas
7550 W. 75th STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS
66204

FIRE & RESCUE
SERVICE
432-2121

STATIONS
7550 W. 75th St.
362-5757
9500 W. 95th St.
888-6066

James G. Broockerd
Fire Chief

March 20, 1985

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

The Overland Park Volunteer Fire Department Inc. would like to state our support for the pending legislation which you are now considering.

Our organization has supplied fire services to the residence of Overland Park for the past 66 years and have provided our services under contract with the existing Fire District since its formation in 1956. We currently provide our services from three stations with a staff of 62 career and 35 volunteer fire fighters, utilizing 11 pieces of apparatus and two ambulances. As you can see we have a vested interest in this legislation.

The corporation supports the city's sponsored legislation in the belief that this legislation will allow the city to take an active role in the planning and delivery of fire service with in Overland Park. We also support the legislation to ensure that taxes paid by residences for fire service will remain within their city. It is also our belief, thru the enactment of this legislation, the high standards we have strived to maintain are more likely to be carried forth under city control.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views and support during your hearing this date.

Very Truly Yours,



William M. Jahnke
President

(attachment 2)

3/21/85