

Approved January 28, 1992
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The meeting was called to order by Senator Audrey Langworthy at
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on January 21, 1992 in room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Ehrlich was excused. Senators Gaines and Steineger.

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Mike Heim, Legislative Research
Elizabeth Carlson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Jerry Karr
Ted King, Reading School Board
David Jones, Reading School Board

Senator Langworthy called the meeting to order and introduced Senator Frahm as the new Vice-Chairman of the committee and Senator Webb as a new member. She also introduced the committee secretary, Elizabeth Carlson.

The Chairperson called upon Mike Heim, Legislative Research to give an overview of the Interim Committee study report and answer questions of the committee. Local Government and Tax interim committees were combined this year.

SB 455 - Concerning benefit districts; relating to the governing bodies thereof.

Senator Karr testified this bill was introduced late in the 1991 Session and has to do with the Benefit Fire District #1 of Reading, Kansas. It is a bill to raise the membership of the Board of the Fire District from 2 members to 5 members, with representation from Osage and Lyon counties. The two members were elected to the Reading School Board and inherited the job of a very extensive fire district. He stated this is unique to this district and is a local situation. He requested, if the bill is passed, it be printed in the Kansas Register so it can go into effect as soon as possible.

Ted King, a member of the Reading School Board and also one of the members of the Benefit Fire District #1 of Reading, stated that community meetings have been held and a great deal of support has been received to change the board to a 5 member board. He said a list has been compiled of names of interested people who would be willing to serve on the board. In the future, the board will be elected by ballot. He requested this bill be expedited and the changes be made as soon as possible.

David Jones stated he agreed with the testimony which had been given.

SB 186 - Relating to county roads and bridges; requiring the filing of project cost estimates and reports.

This bill was reviewed by Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes. She stated the amendments to KSA 68-520 would require the county engineer to file with the county clerk, 30 days prior to beginning work on a project exceeding \$10,000 and using county employees, specifications, plans and cost estimates. Cost estimates have to conform to the generally accepted accounting principles. KSA 68-1116 applies to construction of any bridges or culverts with the cost exceeding \$10,000 and using county employees. These expenditures included labor, materials and hourly equipment costs.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT,

room 531-N, Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on January 21, 1992

Senator Petty asked if this is also required of an outside contractor. Ms. Kiernan replied if it is contracted out, the county engineer is required to keep the list. It makes it consistent with what is required by outside contractors.

Ms. Kiernan discussed the Attorney General's opinion on SB 186 which states the county cannot choose not to do this, and if the county employees do the work, the county must file these costs and specifications. Currently the county does not have to keep these records on county employees, only if it is contracted out and the cost exceeds \$10,000, do the records have to be kept.

Questions were asked regarding prisoners doing work on the roads and bridges. Staff was requested to research this question.

Senator Daniels asked if all counties use these accounting principles. Frank Hempen, Jr., of the Kansas County Engineers Association, stated generally the counties do follow these accounting principles. The question was asked if the smaller counties would be able to comply with these requirements. He stated this varies with counties.

A suggestion was made the counties need to keep their workers busy on a daily basis for the best use of their tax dollars.

Robert Totten, Kansas Contractors Association, stated it can't be determined what the projects cost as the law currently stands.

Senator Lee stated this bill needs to be carefully looked at in all aspects.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

