

Approved: 3/12/97  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Janice Hardenburger at 1:40 p.m. on March 6, 1997 in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department  
Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Bonnie Fritts, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Richard Reinhardt, State Representative, District 8  
Jack Wempe, State Representative, District 113  
Duane Sanders, Sedgwick County Township Association  
Charlene Cahail, Riverside Township Clerk

Others attending: See attached list

The minutes of February 20, 24, 7:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and the 1:30 meeting on the 25th were distributed for committee review.

Chairperson Hardenburger opened the hearing on **HB 2216**.

**HB 2216**                      **Concerning townships; relating to compensation of township officers**

Representative Reinhardt testified as chief sponsor and proponent of the bill. He stated that as a result of a bill passed last year, the legislature created an additional expense for all townships. In an attempt to clean up some old local statutes, the legislature authorized township trustees to set their own salary by resolution and publish it twice in the paper. He testified that he has a small rural township whose three trustees receive \$60 per year to maintain a community building and a volunteer fire department and now they are going to have to spend another \$70-\$80 in publishing costs. This bill would exempt any trustee making less than \$100 per year from this requirement (Attachment 1).

Chairperson Hardenburger closed the hearing on the bill and opened the hearing on **HB 2023**.

**HB 2023**                      **Concerning townships; relating to township clerks**

Representative Wempe appeared before the committee as a proponent of the bill stating this is a repealer bill that eliminates a statute requiring township clerks to be bonded in the amount of \$300. He said this is an obsolete amount, it affects an office that does not handle public funds directly, and creates unnecessary expenses (Attachment 2).

The hearing was closed on this bill and opened on **HB 2020**.

**HB 2020**                      **Concerning townships; relating to the governing bodies thereof**

Duane Sanders, Valley Center, KS, appeared in support of the bill. It was discovered that a 1917 statute put a \$1000 per year cap on wages paid to township officials. He testified that this bill would alleviate a problem that arose from the enactment of legislation that was passed last year which would require repayment of any wages paid over that \$1000 cap (Attachment 3).

Charlene Cahail, Riverside Township Clerk, testified in support of the bill. She voiced concern at the possibility of having to pay back nearly a year's salary as a result of the legislation passed in the 1996 Session. She submitted an outline of the duties she performs as township clerk, and testified she feels she has earned all money she received (Attachment 4).

Committee discussed other aspects of the bill, road maintenance, drains and ditches, and responsibilities of owners of adjacent property. Chairperson Hardenburger closed the hearing on the bill.

Senator Becker made a motion to pass **HB 2216** and **HB 2023**. Senator Praeger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairperson Hardenburger requested action on the minutes.

Senator Becker made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Steineger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 1997.

# SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 3/6/97

NAME	REPRESENTING
<i>Darryl Cahail</i>	
<i>Karlene Cahail</i>	
<i>Maria Sanders</i>	
<i>Sen Duane Schubert</i>	<i>State Senator - 14th District</i>
<i>Anne Spiess</i>	<i>Peterson Public Affairs Group</i>



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES  
TESTIMONY

HB 2216

RICHARD R. REINHARDT  
REPRESENTATIVE, 8TH DISTRICT  
MOST OF NEOSHO COUNTY  
AND PART OF ALLEN COUNTY  
R. R. #1, BOX 118  
ERIE, KANSAS 66733

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS  
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING COMM.

MADAM CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I asked for introduction of this bill. I found out that as a result of SB 541 passed last year, we created an additional expense for all townships. In an attempt to clean up some old local government statutes, we authorized township trustees to set their own salary by resolution and publish it twice in the paper. If they change their salary they repeat the same process.

I have a small rural township whose three trustees receive \$60 per year to maintain a community building and a volunteer fire department. Now they are going to have to spend another \$70 - \$80 to publish in the paper.

They already publish a budget and file an annual report with the County Clerk.

This bill would exempt them from this requirement, I don't believe we intended more red tape. I ask for your support.

Richard R. Reinhardt  
State Representative  
District #8

SENATE ELECTIONS &  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
3-6-97  
ATTACHMENT 1

STATE OF KANSAS

J. R. (JACK) WEMPE  
REPRESENTATIVE, ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH DISTRICT  
895 MAIN, P O BOX 187  
LITTLE RIVER, KANSAS 67457  
(316) 897-6459  
FAX (316) 897-6286



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
MEMBER: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
TAXATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOPEKA  
—  
HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

March 6, 1997-- Testimony by Jack Wempe -- HB 2023

Madam Chairman and committee members

This is a repealer bill eliminating a statute requiring township clerks to be bonded in the amount of 300.00. It is obsolete in the amount, affects an office which doesn't directly handle public funds, and simply creates unnecessary expense and effort at the local level.

I solicit your support for HB 2023 and will stand for questions.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOV'T ORGANIZATION & ELECTIONS

RE: H.B. 2020-CONCERNING TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

January 23, 1997  
Topeka, Kansas

Presented by:  
Duane Sanders

Chairman and members of the Committee:

To say the least, 1996 was an interesting and challenging year for Kansas Township officials. When we became aware in the later part of '95 that we had a problem we appealed to the legislature and our problem was vigorously addressed and solved, or so we thought.

We took our jobs, for the most part, to serve our neighbors and friends and when we were required to spend too much time away from our chosen vocations we paid ourselves a reasonable wage. Our receipts and expenditures are public information and are published, check by check and receipt by receipt yearly and reviewed and approved by the county commission. Generally, everyone was satisfied until it was discovered the 1917 statute that governed us put a \$1000. per year cap on wages that we paid ourselves. In 1917 that was three times the going day wage but hardly a decent monthly wage by today's standards.

The Sedgwick County Attorney decided to recoup the wages some of us had been paid but the Sedgwick County Township Association doesn't feel that this is fair nor was the intent of this committee or the legislation which was enacted last year.

House Bill 2020 will alleviate the problem for some good and honest civic minded public servants, as you folks are. I am here representing the Sedgwick County Township Association and asking for your support and consideration for House Bill 2020.

SENATE ELECTIONS +  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
3-6-97  
ATTACHMENT 3

Duties of Charlene Cahail, Clerk & employee in 1995.

24 hrs. a day answering service for the Township, office phone in my home, when I am at the office I transfer the phone to the office, if I have stepped out of the office or my home the phone is on the answering machine, also we have caller I.D. for residents who call & do not leave a message, I return those calls.

My duties are that of a full time Office Mgr.:

Bookkeeping	Relaying any problems on the roads, etc.
Payroll	All correspondence for the township
Minutes	Mail incoming & outgoing
Agenda	Gasoline exemption forms-refunds
Kpers agent-	E.O.Y. reports for Treas. & Trustee
Publication of reports	All computer work
Filing	Numerous reports as required.

I attend numerous meetings for the township, including meetings with the Sedg. Co. Officials & intergovernmental meetings as required or requested.

I also check out problems on the roads in the township, which I feel are very important for all board members to be aware of in our positions.

I rent the Riverside Township Hall & make contracts with the residents for use of our building, after contract is signed I then give out a key. (This is any day, including Holidays).

I have worked for Riverside Township since 1967 and feel we have a good repore with the residents, due to the fact we are available at any time.

I drive my own vehicle for all meetings & supplies, etc. I don't charge mileage.

SENATE ELECTIONS &  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
3-6-97  
ATTACHMENT 4

Sedg. Co. Commissioners:

I was first hired by the Riverside Township Board in 1967 to do the bookkeeping, payroll & filing.

Several years later I became a board member, since I had first hand knowledge of the position of Clerk, Treasurer & Trustee, I chose to run for the Clerk's position.

Through the years many things have changed, the Township phone was put in my home, since I was the one available for the calls, later caller I.D. & call forwarding were installed on the phone, to better serve the residents, especially after we acquired the hall.

The township office was in my home for many years, I have always mainly worked from my home, the townships mailing address has been my home, the township checks are listed with my address as the address for the township, mainly so all calls would come to me & any mailings, since I was the primary person receiving calls & doing all office work. All general business of the township usually comes through me, whether it is complaints on the roads, discussion with insurance agents, Kpers questions, all computer work (I also have a computer in my home, that I use for the Township, same computer & same programs).

I have used my private vehicle in service for the Township, checking on roads, going to the bank, P. O., errands to purchase supplies for the hall & shop, many trips to the hall to check on the condition after each meeting or when there were problems with plumbing, heating, etc. In 1995 I put approx. 1,500 mi. on my personal car, no charge...

I attended bi-weekly meetings for Riverside Township in 1995, since this was the best way to handle business in a timely manner. List is attached.

I also have attended several meetings with different government agencies in th last year.

Sedg. Co. Courthouse for budget preparation.

Township meeting in the Juror room with the Commissioners & State Representatives.  
Meeting called by the Sedg. Co. Comm. with the Co. Counselor, State Representatives & Township officials.

Township meeting at the Sedg. County Clerk's office.

Sedg. Co. Commissioners meeting room with Comm. Schroeder to plan inter-governmental group between Riverside Township, Oaklawn Improvement Dist. & the Sedg. Co. Public Works Dept.

Another account of what I do for the Township is the report filed in the Clerks Office for the township, which I prepare which you have checked & have in your possession.



Residents of our township have always been aware of our salaries, as you can see from the Wichita Eagle in 1984 of which I have the original in my possession & have furnished your office & many other people with copies.

I feel as though I have earned all money that I received, I called Mary Ann Mammoth at the Adm. office in Sedg. Co., I read her the list of duties that I performed, she came up with a figure over \$32,000.00 per yr, plus insurance benefits, which I do not receive, this figure is quite a bit larger than the pay I have received, I have enjoyed my service to the community in which I reside & have been thanked by many people through the years, I hope this can be resolved & let everyone get back to work & on with their lives.

Thank you for your consideration,

Charlene Cahail