

Assembly

STATE, COUNTY AND CITY AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 1968

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Present: Hilbrecht, Garfinckle, Dini, Young, Tyson, Smith, McKissick, Petrini, Hafen

Guests: Assemblyman Tim Hafen, Frank Dakin

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hilbrecht.

SB 16 - Provides for establishment of town board form of government by initiative petition.

Assemblyman Tim Hafen explained that the town of Tonopah wishes to form the town board form of government. He explained that the town is not large enough for incorporation, that this would be too expensive, as if the town incorporated they would have to have a complete slate of City Officials, which the town could not afford. Under the town board system, the County Officials can be used, but the town has a local board to run the town. In 1967, a law was passed which provided for town boards to be formed at the option of the County Commissioners, and this bill provides for the town boards to be formed in two ways, either by the County Commissioners, or by initiative petition. It is important for the town of Tonopah to have the initiative petition way to form a town board as the County Commissioners do not want to act unless they are sure that this is the wish of the majority of the people in the town. The Nye County Commissioners have stated that they have no objections to this bill and would be happy to have a town board formed, if this is the majority opinion.

Assemblyman Smith stated that this sounded as though the citizens of Tonopah had no faith in the County Commissioners. Assemblyman Tim Hafen said that this is not the problem, the County Commissioners only meet four times a month, and must travel great distances and are concerned with the problems of the County, and the people in Tonopah feel that they need some form of local control.

Assemblyman McKissick stated that the town of Gabbs was incorporated. Assemblyman Tim Hafen replied that the budget of Gabbs for administration was \$24,000; the total budget of Tonaopah was only about \$80,000, and Tonopah could not afford to incorporate.

Chairman Hilbrecht questioned Sec. 4, of the bill, stating that he wondered if a restriction of voters having to own real or personal property which is taxed by NRS Chap. 361, would be legal.

Assemblyman Hafen stated that it was his understanding that anyone who owned a car would be qualified.

Mr. Dakin stated that a car would not qualify a person. That he must own real or personal property, he pointed out that under NRS 361, any personal property would be taxed and that this would be a way to collect personal property taxes on personal belongings.

Chairman Hilbrecht stated that he would have to take exception to this section as many people in his District who lived in unincorporated areas would be affected. Many of these people live in apartments.

Assemblyman Dini asked if this would change the general laws for voter requirements. Mr. Daykin replied that it would only apply to voters in an initiative petition election to form a town board.

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Mr. Daykin stated that under the Constitution of the State of Nevada, a qualified voter was described as a person over 21 years of age, not insane, who has not committed a felony, who has been a resident of the State for six months, of the district for thirty days, and of the precinct for ten days. For water district and similar elections the Legislature can set special qualifications.

Assemblyman Byran Hafen stated that in Clark County, there had been two elections for town boards and that in one a voter had to be a real property owner and in the other he did not.

Chairman Hilbrecht stated that these town boards were formed under the law that applied before the 1967 changes.

Assemblyman Hafen stated that he felt the property owner requirement was a good thing and should be kept in the law.

Assemblyman Young agreed that he felt since the taxpayers would be paying for the government he felt that they should decide.

Chairman Hilbrecht stated that he felt the people who rent also indirectly support the government as the rent is set to include the taxes paid on the property.

Assemblyman McKissick stated that he felt that Section 4 could be taken out.

Chairman Hilbrecht asked Assemblyman Tim Hafen to meet with Senator Titlow and Mr. Daykin to see if some amendment agreeable to all could be worked out.

Chairman Hilbrecht stated that SB 9 would be in Committee tomorrow, and asked that all members read it as it presently is and be prepared to meet tomorrow to consider it.

Assemblyman Young moved the meeting be adjourned.

Assemblyman McKissick seconded the motion.