

Assembly

MINUTES OF MEETING - WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE ⁸²
1968 SPECIAL SESSION - FEBRUARY 23, 1968

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mello at 10:30 AM in the Ways and Means Room.

Present: Mello, Ashworth, Bowler, Webb, Young, Tyson, Howard,
 Jacobsen, Glaser

Absent: None

Mr. Cronkhite of the Parks Division and Mr. DeRicco of Department of Conservation were present to testify relative to S. B. 20 - creation of state park construction engineer.

Mr. Mello asked the functions of the proposed engineer and their opinion relative to putting him in the State Planning Board.

Mr. Cronkhite again stated the 3 categories involved: land and water conservation funds; motor boat fuel tax funds; and general fund appropriations for development of facilities. The engineer would be a jack of all trades involved in design, construction, dealing with consultants, developing construction with the building contractor, inspecting, working with the counties in developing their plans for the federal funds, and occasionally land surveying. They could definitely utilize this man full time. Mr. Cronkhite said until such time as the Legislature could actually review the various state services concerned here, he could see no advantage of putting a man in Planning who would be working 100% of his time with Parks.

Mr. DeRicco mentioned the necessity for this engineer to become fully aware of all park policy and orient his thinking thereto. He would be needed full time at Parks and would give professional guidance to the entire park program.

Mr. Cronkhite explained the various projects now underway: requests from Las Vegas for the checking and certification of their plans for a 40 acre park; the Lake Tahoe project which will become complex with this new regional agency; Rye Patch facility; Eagle Valley; interpretive shelter at Valley of Fire; Red Rock facilities, etc. The money available was broken down at \$240,000/biennium from general fund; 1.25 million dollars/biennium from land and water conservation funds; and \$30,000/annually from motor boat fuel tax.

Mr. Jacobsen asked if travel money is allowed out of the federal funds. Mr. Cronkhite replied, no. In answer to further questions, he said they have 3 park planners working with the total State Park operation, so this proposed employee would be involved in the cost estimating plans. He would be involved in outside travel about 45 - 60 days per year.

Mrs. Tyson feels the \$9500 is not an adequate salary for this man. Mr. Cronkhite said this figure was chosen to allow the proper division between him and that of the administrator. They have 2 prospects in mind, though nothing definite.

Mr. DeRicco felt perhaps they could attract a young man because of the incentive of this growing program, nationally as well as state, and then move him up the salary line as they grow.

Mr. Ashworth explained the idea of putting this \$9500 in the Planning Board and designating one of their qualified engineers as Parks Engineer. This would solve the problem of getting a man at that salary because a draftsman could be hired for that to relieve one of the engineers which you need. Mr. DeRicco said he believed in this sort of approach, but the problem lies in who will be his boss. He again spoke of the growth of the park program and thus increased need. He also stressed the need for a park and recreation oriented type engineer.

In answer to question of Mr. Bowler, Mr. Cronkhite said the man now employed in Planning who would work out nicely would be Joe Littlefield. He is a highly qualified engineer, but the rest of their staff is architecturally oriented.

Mrs. Tyson stressed the tremendous difference between architects and engineers. We need an engineer, not an architect and not a planner. An engineer's plan is on the practical side which can be built.

Discussion on S. B. 4. This bill would take money out of the capital improvement which is a different philosophy than what we have been doing. Discussion also on an amendment asking for \$11,500 under classified.

Meeting adjourned at 11 AM.