

MINUTES OF MEETING ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS,
55TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION, MARCH 19, 1969

284

Present: Smith, Branch, Lingenfelter, Dini, Getto, Bryan Hafen,
Mello, Hilbrecht, Wood.

Also present: Frank Daykin, Legislative Counsel
E. L. Newton, Nevada Taxpayers Assn.
Curt Blyth, Nevada Municipal Assn.
Clay Lynch, City Manager, City of North Las Vegas
Robert Bruce, Fiscal Analyst
Roy E. Nickson, Secretary, Nevada Tax Commission

Chairman Smith opened the meeting and stated that due to the large agenda he would call on Mr. Frank Daykin from the Legislative Counsel to comment on several bills.

SB 342 deletes requirements that State Controller send warrants to Welfare Division for delivery to recipients.

Mr. Daykin explained that this bill came out of a legislative commission audit. In most cases and with most departments the Controller can mail warrants directly to the recipients. However, it was found that in the case of the Welfare Department the requirement presently was for the warrant to be mailed to the Welfare Department for retransmittal to the recipient causing unnecessary delay. This bill would repeal that procedure and allow direct transmittal.

SB 344 requires state agencies to maintain inventory records.

Mr. Daykin said that it has been found that using state agencies are not required to maintain current inventories of public property and conduct any kind of physical count. This will require all state agencies to do so and thereby create a reliable inventory system.

SB 328 makes appointment of Nevada Tax Commission employees conform to state personnel system.

Mr. Daykin explained that as the result of a routine audit of the tax commission it was found that some appointed personnel are not classified employees under the personnel system. This bill would bring those employees into conformity by amending the tax commission statute to provide that such employees shall be in the classified employment of the state.

SB 335 repeals requirement for superintendent's report from Buildings and Grounds Division.

Mr. Daykin said the annual report provision is not needed any longer and this would delete the requirement.

SB 225 specifies proportional reversion of vacated streets to abutting property owners and reserves certain rights to governing bodies.

Mr. Daykin said this bill was requested by the Municipal Association. He said it is to provide that where a governing body

vacates a street or easement the area vacated reverts to the abutting owners in proportion to the original ownership. The right of first refusal remains to the property owner.

SB 341 increases the filing fee for records of survey.

Mr. Daykin said that this bill will eliminate a conflict in fees now existing on the books wherein in one instance a fee of \$1 is designated and in another instance a fee of \$2.50 is designated. This bill would establish conformity by establishing the \$2.50 fee.

The committee was given an opportunity to question Mr. Daykin after which he was excused.

Assemblyman Swackhamer was introduced on behalf of AB 673 which establishes the Eureka-Lander county boundary line. He explained to the committee that in 1929 this boundary line determination had been ordered but had never been effected. He said that with the movement into the area of the Cortez Mining interests the need had again presented itself. He submitted to the committee the boundary line which had been arrived at in a competent manner through the hiring of an approved surveyor firm. He also presented to the committee a letter from the Eureka County Commissioners attesting to the agreement of them to the Lander County action on this matter. A copy of this letter is appended as a part of these minutes.

Mr. Swackhamer was thanked for his presentation and excused.

Senator Titlow was next introduced to the committee to comment on SB 178 which increases powers of town boards of unincorporated towns. He said that in these municipalities when the county fails to act this bill would allow the town to use the initiative petition process to accomplish what is needed.

Senator Titlow was next asked to comment on SB 244 which places certain public utilities owned by towns under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission. He told the committee there is a need for public owned utilities in unincorporated towns to have the value of guidelines for their administration. This bill would place them under the Public Service Commission which would accomplish this end.

Assemblyman Hilbrecht asked how much greater a workload this would place on the Public Service Commission. The committee discussed this after it was stated that there are about 40 or 45 unincorporated towns in the state. Senator Titlow said that few of them have publically owned utilities. It was developed that this bill is intended for the benefit of Tonopah.

Senator Titlow was thanked and excused from the meeting.

Chairman Smith read to the committee Amendment 1710 to AB 458 which provides that annual audit of funds and account of local governments shall be made under supervision of Nevada Tax Commission. The amendments were long and the problem of proper

consideration of these amended bills was being aggravated by not having them printed in such manner as the bill can be understood with the amendments.

Mr. E. L. Newton had some comments with regard to AB 458. He said that he felt the bill as originally drawn was an excellent bill but that the amendments are objectionable. He said it is poor business to allow a governing body to select its own auditor. He said that someone foreign to the governing body but representing the people should make the selection and suggested that the Nevada Tax Commission be allowed that authority. He said this would allow the full value of an impartial judgment to be made without fear of political risk. Mr. Newton said another of the amendments would put the Nevada Tax Commission in the position of determining action when their function is clearly that of recommending.

Mr. Roy Nickson, Assemblyman Hilbrecht, and Fiscal Analyst Bruce discussed the amendments and the bill with regard to the place the State Board of Public Accountants would play in the process. It was developed that there was disagreement as to the intent of the Nevada Tax Commission and some of the committee with regard to the amendments that had been drawn.

It was agreed by the committee that further research and consideration would have to be made on the bill. Mr. Newton offered the services of his office to reprint the amendments in a form for the members consideration and this was agreed upon.

Amendment 1726 to AB 400 which authorizes volunteer firemen to join the Public Employees' Retirement System was read to the committee. Chairman Smith said that he did not feel this bill should be considered until the study of the system which has been requested is completed. The committee agreed to delay action.

Assemblyman Mello said that he had met with the Chairman of the Washoe Delegation Assemblyman Schouweiler and ironed out some revisions of the Washoe County officer compensation bill, AB 595. He presented the proposed changes for salary increases as they had been arrived at. As for the Office of District Attorney, Assemblyman Mello said that a straight salary increase had been suggested without the option of private practice and also a suggestion of less increase with the option of private practice retained. Assemblyman Hilbrecht strongly urged that the committee establish a full-time salary position in the District Attorney's office and remove the private practice option. The committee was divided on this matter and the bill is to be studied further with relation to SB 320 and 321 which deals with the Clark County officers.

The Chairman asked the committee if they wanted to take any action on the bills Mr. Daykin had commented upon.

Dini moved Do Pass SB 342.
Hilbrecht seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Hilbrecht moved Do Pass SB 344.
Motion seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Hilbrecht moved Do Pass SB 328.
Motion seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Hilbrecht moved Do Pass SB 335.
Dini seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Assemblyman Hilbrecht advised the committee that Mr. Ray Knisley had suggested an amendment to SB 225 to plug a hole. The amendment was agreed upon.

Lingenfelter moved to amend and Do Pass as amended SB 225.
Motion seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Hilbrecht moved Do Pass SB 341.
Motion seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Dini moved Do Pass AB 673.
Mello seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Assemblyman Wood advised the committee that AB 510 before this committee would be commented upon in his Commerce Committee meeting along with other similar bills. Chairman Smith said there would be no objection and that the benefit of the comments could be reviewed. However this committee will consider the bill in due time and may ask the same persons to comment at that time.

The meeting adjourned.

OFFICE OF
CLERK AND TREASURER
EUREKA, NEVADA

268

March 7, 1969

Honorable William Swackhamer
Assemblyman for Eureka, Lander and Pershing Counties
Nevada State Legislature
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Bill:

County Commissioners of Eureka County have carefully examined all the information relevant to the Eureka-Lander County Line presented to us by Mr. Hawes, our District Attorney. It is his opinion and we accede to that opinion that the Nevada Highway Department line is probably the best approximation of the 1873 Edwards line available. We have conversed at length with the Lander County Commissioners and feel that the line which they have proposed following section lines is about as fair to both sides as is possible considering convenience and future ascertainment of the line.

Because of time limitations and the fact that the Board of this County is scattered and of the impossibility of having a special meeting because deep snows, we have not passed a resolution to the above affect as requested. We, therefore, submitting this letter indicating that we agree in principal with the proposed Eureka-Lander County line and will not oppose appropriate legislative measures to establish it as set out in legal description and map presented by the Lander County Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Charles Damele
Charles Damele, County Commissioner, Chairman

Charles A. Vaccaro
Charles Vaccaro, County Commissioner
Walter L. Plaskett
Walter L. Plaskett, County Commissioner
Members