

Assembly

MINUTES - WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 56th SESSION - FEB. 10, 1971

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Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 2:10 P.M.

Present: R. Young, Howard, Capurro, Hafen, F. Young,
Brookman, Mello, Schofield, Swackhamer, Hilbrecht,
Lingenfelter

Absent: None

Guests: Earl Oliver, Fiscal Analyst; Jack Fagg; Ron Sparks,
Budget Div.; Howard Barrett, Dir. Admin.; Avis Hicks,
Purchasing Admin.; Jean Ross, Budget Div.; Elmo DeRico,
Dir. Conservation; Norman Hall, Deputy Dir. CNRS;
Eric Cronkhite, State Parks Admin., Bob Carroll, Deputy
State Forester; Roland Westergard, State Engineer;
Colonel Tom Miller; Chairman, Park Comm.; Bob Ross,
Taxicab Authority; Bob TaFoya, Economic Opportunity;
Ed Bowers, Gaming Commission.

Representatives from Clark County were present to discuss
Commodity Food Program. The Commodity Food Program is supported
by a service charge against school districts or educational
institutions in order for State to support program. Service
charges leveled to pay for warehouse, freight, etc., on
distribution of Federal surplus commodities. Mr. Fagg
discussed the problems in Clark County. He stated that
there is a surcharge per package for commodities, and he
went on to say that this charge is unfair to taxpayers
who must share the State's costs to support this program.
\$40,000 for expansion fund is going back to the State for
service charges. Mr. Fagg stated that they wanted to
know why their service charge is so much higher for
administrative costs. Mr. Barrett stated that the State
has expenses and does not have a General Fund appropriation
to support these expenses; therefore, they must use a
surcharge. \$30,000 was transferred from Department of
Education to start this program. With the new warehouse
in Las Vegas perhaps this will help State to lower
surcharges. Mr. Hilbrecht stated that in order to
justify an appropriation we must be sure that we are just
financing this program. Mr. Barrett replied that we could
finance this program by a General fund appropriation
without disserving other agency. Clark County maintained
that their service charge is 2/3 more. Mr. Barrett added that
the freight charge is in communications expense.

Mrs. Hicks stated that she was running into a freight problem. Presently, trucks are being used to transport food. \$19,000 has been spent in shipping food to Las Vegas in the last 6 months. USDA sends food in at no cost to State of Nevada. Mr. Fagg hoped that something could be done in the way of an appropriation to offset this cost. Clark County feels that they are paying more money for food than they can afford. He stated that they must feed 9,000 people.

PAGE 340 - DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Mr. DeRico stated that he concurred with Governor's recommendation.

PAGE 342 - DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Westergard stated that there were a few increases in their budget due to inflation.

Contractual Services - \$27,000 from General Funds are used to match \$65,000 in Water Resource Planning.

Dues and Registrations - Mr. DeRico concurred with Governor's recommendation.

U.S. Geological Survey - Mr. DeRico stated that agency accepts funds recommended by Governor.

PAGE 345 - CALIFORNIA NEVADA COMPACT COMM.

Agency requested \$14,000 for both parts of biennium. Funds requested to defray expenses. In current year we are expecting to spend about \$17,000 to \$20,000. Mr. Mello asked Mr. Westergard if they anticipated problems with Congress over the Water Compact. Mr. Westergard replied that federal agents are required to report to Congress and they will ask questions about it.

PAGE 346 - DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Appropriation for this year has gone up 25%. Sources of funds are from Federal government, State appropriation, county funds and other funds namely from inmate program.

New Positions - Forestry Foreman II requested to man station at Spooner Summit. Agency also requesting another Forestry Foreman II. Forestry Foreman I is requested to work at Tahoe Basin.

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Trucks - Need two trucks for Northern area and 4 trucks for Western area. Agency can build approximately 5-6 trucks for \$40,000.

Overtime - During the fire season they go on a 6 day work week. Appropriation of \$15,000 recommended by Governor for each half of the biennium.

Seasonal - Extra help is needed during the fire season. Appropriation of \$25,000 for each half of biennium is recommended by Governor.

Discussion on taxes to support fire fighting (Lingenfelter, DeRico). Mr. DeRico stated that the local governments should generate more funds. He went on to say that after budget has been resolved certain priorities should be established. Mr. Lingenfelter asked where the Clark McNary taxes go. Mr. DeRico responded that they go into county funds and these funds go into county funds in their budget.

Farming - Nursery operations have been increasing annually. Additional money is needed for tree sales and to operate equipment.

Contractual Services - Increase in appropriation request is due to rental of aircraft, repair of aircraft, etc.

Utilities - Increase in appropriation was for new fire station, pumping water to nursery, enlarging telephone system, etc. Mr. Dolan stated that \$5,400 was put in for utilities and operational maintenance.

Office Furniture Equipment - Appropriation request by agency was cut down because request for expansion facilities was cut back.

Radios - Some of their radios are over 10 years old. Need to replace outmoded radios as well as a mountain top repeater.

PAGE 350 - FOREST FIRE SUPPRESSION

Appropriation pays for fire suppression, rental of additional equipment, extra gasoline, repair of tools, etc.

PAGE 351 - FOREST PEST CONTROL

No change. Agency accepts Governor's recommendation.

PAGE 352 - FOREST AND WATER SHED REHABILITATION

Funds needed for rehabilitation after a fire.

PAGE 353 - HUMBOLDT RIVER INVESTIGATION

\$2,500 is reimbursed to agency after they present data to USGS.

PAGE 354 - SOIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

No change.

PAGE 355 - OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Agency accepts Governor's recommendation.

PAGE 356 - DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

New positions - Two Park Supervisors to assist with 30,000 acres. Agency also requesting Rec. Park Planner I and a Senior Clerk Typist.

User Fees - Two years ago they started charging User Fees. Budget office said that User Fees will revert into General Fund in this biennium. See page A-3 (User Fees). Mr. Dolan stated that it is anticipated that \$30,000 will be collected in both years of biennium.

Discussion on Sand Harbor at Lake Tahoe. Boat launching ramp is scheduled to go up this summer.

Existing Positions - Position of Assistant Administrator - agency is requesting that this position be converted to a Classified position.

PAGE 365 - PARK COMMISSION MARINA DEVELOPMENT

Agency is requesting \$137,000 to develop boater oriented facilities. Legislation is underway to increase motor boat gasoline tax.

PAGE 326 - TAXICAB AUTHORITY

Mr. Ross

Contractual Services - Agency uses appropriation to investigate fares charged by drivers.

In-State-Travel - Head office is in Las Vegas. Mr. Ross needs funds to come up here on business. Funds are also used by investigators when they ride cabs to investigate vehicle operations. Agency also maintains three cars in Motor Pool.

Existing Positions - Position of Senior Inspector Aviation is a misprint; this should read: Senior Inspector.

Balance Forward EOY - Mr. Ross stated that his agency collects \$75 per cab per year for licensing. Clark County rescinded taxicab tax; therefore, the agency is requesting legislation to increase fees to \$200 per cab per year. AB 151 would raise this rate to \$200. Mr. Ross stated that the increase of \$125 per cab per year would go directly into their budget. Mr. Hilbrecht stated that 16 other counties regulate taxicabs cheaper than Taxicab Authority in Clark County. He asked Mr. Ross why his scheme was so costly. Mr. Ross replied that part of problem was the necessity to allocate cabs; a few years ago there was no allocation of cabs and some companies forced competitors out. Mr. Hilbrecht stated that he was under the impression that the allocation was an emergency action. Mr. Ross replied that they have the industry established now. It costs about \$500 to regulate a cab: \$300 per cab goes to State and \$200 per cab goes to county. Mr. Hilbrecht felt that the Taxicab Authority should be an interim agency. The Public Service Commission has asked the Legislature to reduce fees in 16 counties from \$75 per cab per year to \$35 per cab per year.

Communications Expense - Increase is for telephones. Three vehicles have been equipped with two way radios.

PAGE 277 - ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Regular Appropriation - In next biennium regular appropriation should be changed to \$9,500 (for each half of biennium). Increase is due to an increase in rent.

Technical Assistance - \$13,000 is appropriated from OEO Land Grant.

In-State Travel - Budget request for agency was prepared by Mr. TaFoya's predecessor. Governor made his recommendation on 1969-1970 appropriation.

PAGE 332 - GAMING ADMINISTRATION

Existing Positions - Agency requesting approximately \$5,500 increase in salary for two existing positions: (1) Requesting that Assistant Executive Secretary's salary be increased from \$13,592 in 1971-72 to \$17,000 and from \$13,908 in 1972-73 to \$17,000; (2) Requesting that Chief Tax Administrator's salary be increased from \$12,966 in 1971-72 to \$15,000 and from \$13,267 in 1972-73 to \$15,000.

Salary Discussion. Mr. Bowers stated that there is a need to get salaries increased in order to keep up with increase in cost of living. Mr. Bowers stated that SB 144 states that the Legislature would evaluate employees and set salaries; however, no one contacted him in regards to evaluating jobs and responsibilities of personnel. Salaries need to be upgraded to avoid morale problem with employees. See handout from Nev. Gaming Commission.

Chairman Young asked for corrections to minutes of February 8th. The following correction was made under Absent: Mr. Mello - Excused.

Mr. Lingenfelter moved that minutes be approved as corrected. Mr. Howard Seconded the motion.
Passed Unanimously.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE-NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE-56th SESSION

AGENDA - BUDGET HEARINGS - FEBRUARY 10, 1971 - WEDNESDAYAFTERNOON

<u>TIME</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
2:00	Dept. Conservation	340	Elmo DeRico
3:00	Taxicab Authority	326	Bob Ross
4:00	Gaming Admin.	332	Ed ^h Bowers
4:30	Gaming Control Bd.	334	Phil Hannifan
5:00	Racing Comm.	331	