

**MINUTES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND TAX SYSTEM TASK FORCE**  
Monday, August 6, 2001 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 405 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. John L. Valentine,  
Senate Chair  
Rep. Greg J. Curtis,  
House Chair  
Sen. Ron Allen  
Sen. Gene Davis  
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins  
Rep. Eli H. Anderson  
Rep. Chad E. Bennion  
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire  
Rep. Craig W. Buttars  
Rep. Kevin S. Garn

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Curtis Bramble  
Rep. Cindy Beshear

**Staff Present:**

Mr. O. William Asplund,  
Assistant Director  
Ms. Rebecca L. Rockwell,  
Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Sandra Wissa,  
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

**1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Curtis called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes were not approved.

**2. Special District Revenue and Expenditures**

Mr. Jan Furner, Executive Director, Utah Association of Special Districts, distributed the handout "Special Districts of Utah An Analysis of Special District Revenue and Expenditures." He highlighted: the services special districts are authorized to provide; the statutory provisions authorizing a special district to impose a property tax; the difference between independent and dependent special districts; and the budget review process for each type of special district.

Mr. Terel Grimley, First Vice Chair, Utah Association of Special Districts, explained that special districts charge fees as well as taxes. He indicated that the taxes are for special districts' long-term, long-range planning and fees are for the use of services provided by the special districts.

Rep. Garn asked about the ability of special districts to accumulate fund balances. Mr. Ken Minson, Utah Association of Special Districts, explained that surplus funds held over from previous years help with emergency situations.

Rep. Bennion requested the special districts to clarify the section in the handout on budgets showing the types of revenues and expenditures to provide dollar amounts in addition to the percentages shown in the handout.

### **3. Utah Transit Authority Revenue and Expenditures**

Mr. John English, Utah Transit Authority (UTA), distributed the handout "UTA Revenue & Expense Summaries 2001 Budgeted 30 Year Forecast [sic]." He provided a brief history of UTA, and discussed the handout. He also distributed the handout "Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – For Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2000."

Mr. Ken Montague, UTA, explained that UTA is operated like an enterprise fund. He explained that UTA's largest revenue source is the sales and use tax and the largest expenditure is bus operations, followed closely by Trax construction.

### **4. Other Business**

Chair Curtis stated that the task force needs to decide if subcommittees are needed, and if so what what subjects need to be studied.

Chair Curtis stated that two areas of study that he and Sen. Valentine would like to suggest for subcommittees are: to look at government services to see if the right level of government is providing the services and whether multiple agencies are providing the same service; and to examine the relationship between the property tax, the sales and use tax, and user fees. Task force members and members of the audience also suggested creating subcommittees to study: property taxes on secondary homes; and growth and development issues related to the tax structure.

Rep. Buffmire asked staff to summarize the major issues raised by presenters at prior task force meetings. Chair Curtis requested staff to contact persons who made presentations at prior task force meetings and ask them to provide to the task force three major issues for future task force discussions.

Rep. Garn recommended that subcommittees not be created and that the entire task force address the issues.

Chair Curtis stated that the next task force meeting will be held on September 7, 2001, at 9:00 a.m. at the Salt Lake City Sheraton in conjunction with the Utah League of Cities and Towns Annual Convention.

Sen. Valentine summarized: the task force's request for a summary of the major issues raised by presenters at prior task force meetings to be used in a discussion of those issues at future

meetings; potential issues for future task force meetings; and that the task force has not decided whether there is a need for one or more subcommittees or whether the full task force should address the issues.

## **5. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Rep. Buffmire moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen, Sen. Davis, Rep. Bennion, and Rep. Garn absent for the vote. Chair Curtis adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

