

**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, August 18, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – W025 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Carlene M. Walker, Senate Chair
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, House Chair
Sen. Patrice M. Arent
Sen. Gregory S Bell
Rep. Eli H. Anderson
Rep. D. Gregg Buxton
Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. Scott Daniels
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Ann W. Hardy
Rep. M. Susan Lawrence
Rep. Joseph G. Murray

Members Absent:

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.le.utah.gov> or by contacting the committee secretary, Wendy Bangerter, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Holdaway called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Chair Holdaway updated the Committee regarding the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) workgroup. Mr. Dennis Goreham also addressed the GIS issue and reported on the efforts of the workgroup.

Sen. Bell reported on the efforts of the land use workgroup to rewrite the Land Use Development Management Act. The workgroup will have some recommendations to be presented at the October Political Subdivisions Interim Committee meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Hardy moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dee absent for the vote.

2. County Recorder Fees and GRAMA (Government Records Access and Management Act)

Rep. Curt Webb, sponsor of master study item #122, County Recorder Amendments and GRAMA Revisions, explained the topic and noted that the request for legislation has been withdrawn. He spoke in favor of user fees, praising Utah's good user fee system.

Rep. Neil Hansen, sponsor of master study item #128, Fee Repeals, explained his interest in repealing fees in clerk and recorder offices because many of those fees are already a part of taxes paid.

Rep. Dee spoke in opposition to only using tax dollars to provide services to a community because services are not used equally nor fairly.

Ms. Debbie Ames, Rich County Recorder, stated that there are counties that have a large volume of recording and collect enough fees to make a profit. Smaller counties do not generate enough through the fees to cover expenses.

Mr. Richard Maughn, Davis County Recorder, spoke in favor of user fees. He explained that Davis County manages to put money back into the general fund.

Rep. Hansen spoke in favor of returning the fee structure to the counties.

Mr. Brent Gardner, Executive Director, Utah Association of Counties, explained the difference between state-wide fees and fees charged within the county. He spoke in support of an enterprise fee, only when the county is given the authority to set the fee schedule. He noted that most county recorders support user fees because they are uniform across counties. He expressed concern that the public would be required to pay a second time for services covered in their tax dollars.

3. Redevelopment Agencies

Mr. Randy Sant, Sandy City, gave a presentation explaining the purpose of RDAs (Redevelopment Agencies) and how they are used. He reviewed the three types of RDA projects: traditional redevelopment projects for blighted areas, economic development projects, and educational housing projects.

Mr. Larry Newton, State Office of Education, spoke to the issue of rural areas that pay higher service rates because they do not have RDAs and no economic tools for redevelopment. He expressed concern that extensions for using the tax increment funds are being requested. He spoke in favor of a taxing entity committee, but also the need to look critically at approving extensions.

Mr. Paul Glauser, Provo City Redevelopment Agency, spoke in favor of a taxing entity committee as a safeguard, particularly in circumstances of extensions.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Holdaway adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.