

Draft—Awaiting Formal Approval
**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Tuesday, January 31, 2017 • 8:00 am • 25 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher, Senate Chair
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, House Chair
Rep. Bruce R. Cutler, House Vice Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. James A. Dunnigan
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Tim Quinn

Rep. Angela Romero
Rep. V. Lowry Snow
Rep. Logan Wilde

Members Absent:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Rep. Merrill F. Nelson

Staff Present:

Mr. Gary R. Syphus, Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Alexander R. Wilson, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Debbie Benson, Administrative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at le.utah.gov.

Chair Hutchings called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and discussed the day's agenda.

1. State Treasurer - (Base Budget - \$3.6 million)

Mr. Alex Wilson, Fiscal Analyst, discussed the State Treasurer's budget.

Linked EOCJ Base Budget Bill (SB0006)

Mr. David Damschen, State Treasurer and Mr. Dennis Johnson, Unclaimed Property Administrator, discussed the Public Treasurer's Investment Fund.

Rep. Cutler asked why the Utah fund is doing so much better than other states. Mr. Damschen said that the staff is excellent and mentioned the latitude provided in statute. He stated that a new benchmark needs to be chosen and explained why this is necessary. He discussed the status of the server being used for the state investment pool. Mr. Damschen discussed some of the other functions of the State Treasurer's office.

House Chair Hutchings asked several questions about the maturation dates for bonds and debt limits. Mr. Damschen answered these questions.

House Chair Hutchings asked if Mr. Damschen had any advice or comments for the committee regarding debt load. Mr. Damschen discussed the debt structure.

Sen. Dayton asked about the AAA bonding states. Mr. Damschen explained the bonding process and will provide Sen. Dayton with more information about the states with this rating. Mr. Damschen discussed the guaranteed bonding process.

Mr. Damschen discussed Unclaimed Property programs.

Senate Chair Thatcher assumed the chair.

Sen. Okerlund asked about future plans for more Unclaimed Property initiatives. Mr. Damschen answered this question.

Rep. Dunnigan thanked Mr. Johnson for their efforts. He stated that other states use this money rather than returning it to the taxpayer. He asked about HSA accounts being sent to the state. Mr. Johnson said that they do see a few of these.

2. Unfinished Business from the January 27th 2017 meeting - Office of the Attorney General (Base Budget - \$65.7 million)

Ms. Missy Larsen, Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General introduced Ms. Schmeling.

Ms. Kimberly Schmeling, Director of Finance discussed the functions of the Attorney General's office. She discussed the budget for the office.

House Chair Hutchings asked about the net financial result of cases won and lost. Ms. Schmeling answered this question.

Ms. Schmeling and Ms. Larsen discussed the proposed cuts to the agency budget.

Rep. Cutler asked if the Boy's and Girl's club allocation should be in the Attorney General's office budget. Ms. Larsen answered that it is working well.

House Chair Hutchings asked how many attorneys are in the office and then how many FTE support staff. Ms. Larsen answered these questions.

3. Utah State Courts (Base Budget - \$147.9 million)

Mr. Gary Syphus, Fiscal Analyst explained the Utah State Courts Budget.

Sen. Okerlund asked for clarification regarding the building delay. Mr. Syphus answered this question.

Mr. Dan Becker, State Court Administrator commented about Sen. Okerlund's question. He introduced other individuals from the State Court Administrator's office. He gave a progress report on the new business model and performance measures.

Courts Presentation - 2017 General Session

House Chair Hutchings wanted the committee to be aware that the State of Utah has been recognized nationally and used as a model for other states in the courts system. Senate Chair

Thatcher stated that Utah is at the forefront of groundbreaking reforms that are coming.

Rep. Snow acknowledged the great work of the courts system and the great benefit it is on the ground level in his own law office.

Mr. Becker continued with his presentation regarding performance measures of the Utah State Courts.

Rep. Wilde asked about a disparity between requested and actual FTEs. Mr. Becker will answer this question off-line. He continued with the discussion of performance measures and explained future initiatives.

Senate Chair Thatcher mentioned that many people cannot afford attorneys and was impressed with the groundbreaking idea of having licensed experts in these areas that can give affordable service.

Mr. Becker agreed with the possible one-time budget reductions proposed by the analyst. He expressed concern about the proposed budget cuts regarding judgeship elimination and reassignment.

House Chair Hutchings asked for clarification regarding court supervised probation. Mr. Becker discussed these services.

Senate Chair Thatcher stated that cutting the judgeship was not necessarily a recommendation, but part of the two-percent budget cut assignment given by the Executive Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Syphus explained the analysts were assigned to prepare options for consideration but not necessarily recommendations.

Mr. Becker explained that the judicial counsel should probably study this during an interim session.

4. Office of Guardian ad Litem (Base Budget - \$8.5 million)

Mr. Syphus briefly discussed the role and functions of the Office of Guardian ad Litem and the budget.

Guardian ad Litem - Base Budget

Ms. Stacey Snyder, Director, Office of Guardian ad Litem explained how the FY 2017 budget increases have been utilized. She discussed re-structuring of job descriptions and other organizational shifts. She discussed GAL performance measures and standards. She discussed her concerns about the options for budget reduction considerations.

Office of the Guardian ad Litem - Annual Report

Dr. Douglas Goldsmith, Executive Director, Children's Center and Chair, GAL Oversight Committee wanted to commend Ms. Snyder for her leadership. On behalf of the committee he expressed concern about the salary disparity between the GAL and Attorney General's office. They were very grateful for the funding received last year.

Rep. King thanked them for their good work. He wants to make sure the effort to narrow the salary disparity gap continues.

5. Department of Public Safety (Base Budget - \$194.3 million)

Mr. Syphus briefly discussed the role and functions of the Department of Public Safety and the budget.

Public Safety - Budget History

Mr. Keith Squires, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety discussed his role and experience with the DPS. He discussed the mission and efficiencies of the DPS.

DPS Presentation

Mr. Joe Brown, Administrative Services/Finance Director, introduced Colonel Rapich.

Colonel Michael S. Rapich, UHP discussed the Aero Bureau and his concerns about the options for budget reductions considerations.

Senate Chair Thatcher discussed the time when budget cuts were absolutely required because of the economic situation. He explained the importance of the Aero Bureau to local and state law enforcement.

Senate Chair Thatcher briefly explained the budget/appropriations process to committee members.

Rep. Wilde asked about local involvement with the Aero Bureau. Col. Rapich answered this question and Senate Chair Thatcher stated that the budget process should not impact the ability to save a life.

Col. Rapich discussed the budget efficiencies of the UHP and the Aero Bureau.

Senate Chair Thatcher praised the DPS and asked about the number of troopers on the road. Mr. Brown answered this question.

Rep Cutler asked about the budget reallocations. Senate Chair Thatcher answered this question.

Mr. Brown discussed other budget matters for DPS. He mentioned the tremendous need in Utah County for more driver's license offices.

Rep. Quinn asked about the proposed driver's license increase. Mr. Brown answered this question and finished his presentation. He discussed the new crime lab.

6. Office of the Utah State Auditor (Base Budget - \$5.9 million)

Mr. Wilson discussed the Utah State Auditor's budget.

OSA - FY18 - Budget Presentation - January 2017

Mr. John Dougall, Utah State Auditor explained the function of the Utah State Auditor's office. He mentioned their reports regarding waste, fraud and abuse of state funds. He discussed administrative subpoenas and the complaint hot line. He reported on performance, financial, and information system audits.

Mr. John Johnson, State Auditor's Office spoke to the issue.

Rep. Cutler praised the auditor's office for their good work. He asked how and when they determine which audits to complete. Mr. Dougall answered this question.

Rep. Quinn asked about the proposed budget reallocations. Mr. Dougall answered that question. Senate Chair Thatcher discussed the impactful results of the auditor's office work and budget concerns.

Sen. Iwamoto asked about the follow-up when an audit is complete. Mr. Dougall answered this question.

Rep. Romero mentioned that roles and budget needs of the other agencies who present to the committee are quite different from the auditor's office because they are direct services.

MOTION: Rep. Romero moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Chair Thatcher adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.