

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jene Vickrey at 3:30 P.M. on February 14, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Steve Huebert- excused
Representative Tom Sawyer- excused
Representative Mario Goico- excused
Representative Tom Holland- excused
Representative Melody Miller- excused
Representative Jim Yonally- excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Maureen Stinson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rep. Virginia Beamer
Rep. Gary Hayzlett
Mike Thon, Greeley County Commission
Alan Peter, City/County Government Action Team
Gary DuPree, City of Tribune
Clark Harris, City/County Government Action Team
Terry Woodbury, Kansas Communities, LLC

Others attending:

See attached list.

Committee Members Huebert, Sawyer, Holland, Goico, M. Miller, and Yonally were excused from the Tuesday, February 14, 2006 meeting in order that they could attend a sub-committee meeting relating to **HB 2742**.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

HB 2809 **Unification of City of Tribune and Greeley County**

Rep. Hayzlett introduced the conferees to the Committee.

Alan Peter, City/County Government Unification Action Team, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 1). He explained that the bill would allow a study commission to be organized relating to the unification of the Greeley County Commission and the Tribune City Council.

Gary DuPree, Mayor of Tribune, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 2). He stated that the unification process will not eliminate any jobs but it will make the city and county governments work smoothly.

Clark Harris, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 3). He said that unification would allow the county and the city to continue to have separate budgets and tax bases.

Mike Thon, City/County Government Unification Action Team, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 4). He said that unification recognizes that they (county/city) are one community and that there are overlapping needs.

Terry Woodbury, Kansas Communities, LLC, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 5). He informed that Greeley County's new "Community Building" effort was stimulated by the community's desire to reverse downward trends in the population and economy.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Governmental Organization and Elections Committee at 3:30 P.M. on in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Written testimony was submitted by Nancy Weeks, Kansas County Officials Association, in support of the bill (Attachment 6).

Written testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 7) was submitted by Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer.

There were no opponents.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2809**.

HB 2809 **Unification of City of Tribune and Greeley County**

Rep. Storm made a motion to amend the bill relating to changes in elected offices following unification and requiring a separate ballot question. Rep. Lane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Otto made a motion to amend the bill to allow for the inclusion or exclusion of the City of Horace. Rep. Lane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Miller made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2809** as amended. Rep. Craft seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

HB 2667 **Recreation commissions; removal of members**

Rep. Beamer testified in support of the bill (Attachment 8). She explained that currently, removal of members is by the appointing authority only. She said that her constituents have asked for a change to allow for petition and election.

Written testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 9) was submitted by Rep. Olson.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2667**.

HB 2667 **Recreation commissions; removal of members**

Rep. Lane made a motion to amend the bill with clarifying language, a technical amendment. Rep. Faust-Goudeau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Oharah made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2667** as amended. Rep. Lane seconded the bill. Motion carried.

HB 2719 **open meetings; recording of closed or executive sessions**

Written testimony from Jerry Slaughter, Kansas Medical Society, relating to **HB 2719** was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 10).

Approval of Minutes

Rep. Faust-Goudeau made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2006 meeting. Rep. Lane seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Chairman Vickrey adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2006.