

MINUTES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

January 11, 1979
8:30 a.m.
Room 132
State Capitol Building
Tape Data: 1:1-1:901-end
1:2-4:0-230
Subjects: Dept. of Ad.,
Supreme Crt., Sec. State

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were Chairman Menahan, Representative Gene Wood, Fiscal Analyst JanDee May. Senator Thiessen and Senator Lockrem were excused.

The subjects for the day were Department of Administration: Transportation of Prisoners, State Tax Appeals Board, Statewide Budgeting and Accounting System (SBAS) and Emergency and Disaster; Supreme Court; Secretary of State: Records Management and Administrative Code.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
State Tax Appeals Board

Helen Peterson told the committee that as of the 1st of January last year, their budget was 30-35% expended. This year 54% of the budget is expended because of the overrun in Fiscal 1978. This year as of October 10, the county boards have spent \$28,349.79. At first the supplemental needed was about \$12,000. Representative Wood asked to hear the difference between the proposed supplemental and the Fiscal Analyst recommendation. Helen Peterson stated the total proposal was \$60,690.

The Fiscal Analyst's figures were calculated by taking the actual expenditures through December, taking the last 6 months, applying an inflation rate of 6% plus this 6 months actual expenditures and coming up with a bottom line of \$36,195. Included was a savings of \$2,100 for rental. There was discussion on the appeals coming into the counties of Gallatin, Missoula and Yellowstone which account for about half of the expenditures. Also there was discussion on the high amount of appeals which will be coming in because of appraisals going out on time.

Emergency and Disaster

Mr. Dave Lewis stated the similarity between Transportation of Prisoners, SBAS, and Emergency and Disaster Programs was that they were impossible to project. For Emergency and Disaster, with flooding and snow problems last winter the \$750,000 appropriated was almost depleted. They asked that another \$750,000 be allocated for this year. If there is too much, the money will be reverted; if not enough there will be some counties that will not be paid.

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Transportation of Prisoners

The estimate put in with the budget was \$85,000. Steve Weber said when the request for the supplement was made, they did not have figures available because they did not have the December reports. If they add the 12.2% increase of the last fiscal year to the request they would be spending an estimated amount of \$92,000. It is not possible to estimate what would be needed to reimburse the counties.

Mr. Lewis suggested to accept the supplement as is requested. They could look at the appropriation for Transportation of Prisoners and talk more before the committee for the next bienium budget. If it was advisable to the committee. It was advisable.

Statewide Budgeting and Accounting System

In the request for SBAS the major problem was the upkeep for SBAS. There are increase processing costs. There was a saving at the operational level on processing costs.

The response of the Fiscal Analyst for their recommendation was \$5,000 for Transportation of Prisoners as was originally requested. For Emergency and Disaster \$750,000, and for SBAS \$289,041. Mr. Lewis said there was a request for an additional person and asked if that was included in the recommendation. The Fiscal Analyst replied no that it was not. There was discussion as to why they felt an additional person was needed. The Fiscal Analyst said that there had also been \$22,000 spent on enhancements rather than just the operation of SBAS to date. The figures from the Fiscal Analyst were just for the operation of SBAS and provided for no other enhancements.

Mr. Lewis said the difference in the projection for operation was about \$30,000.

SUPREME COURT

Mike Ably requested money to pay for three new District Judges. The original request was \$129,000. They reduced this amount to \$125, 409 due to less training for Judge Holter. Also the mileage being traveled by the District Judges was less than average and they estimated the new judges would travel no more than the others had.

SECRETARY OF STATE Records Management

Leonard Larson, Chief Deputy, said they were asking for an additional \$80,266 in the Records Management Program which covers operations, elections, executive records management and incorporation of the Uniform Commercial Code. The deficit

was caused by circumstances beyond control such as damage caused by breaking of a water pipe, increase in postage rates, and increased printing costs. Representative Wood wanted to have the Fiscal Analyst's response.

The Fiscal Analyst's response was that the recommended amount was \$58,566. She said one of the points for saving was the supplies and materials requested for the damage due from the broken pipe. The supplies were replaced with funds from fiscal year 1978 and the Fiscal Analyst felt there were several other ways for additional saving. There was quite a bit of discussion over the spending of funds for supplies after the damage and now with the need for replenishing.

Representative Wood asked what the approximate amount spent was. Mr. Larson stated the total was \$3,479.18. The Fiscal Analyst said at the end of December only 42% of the total \$8,100 budget was expended.

The Chairman remarked that in the later part of the year the expenditures could be greater than in the first part of the fiscal year. This could be due to a larger volume of printing.

Mr. Jim VanKoten asked for the amount the agency reverted at the end of the year and remarked that the agency had a good record for reverting funds not used. The Fiscal Analyst said the total reverted was \$25,786. Nineteen thousand dollars from the Administration Code and \$6,800 from the Records Management. Mr. VanKoten recommended that this money be transferred to this year without additional cost to the taxpayer.

Administration Code

In the Administration Code program, \$24,799 is requested. Again due to the large volume of printing of revised rules. After the Legislature, a high volume of rules are adopted. If the total asking amount is not received, publication could have to be stopped.

The Fiscal Analyst said that Mr. Larson had noted also that they anticipated \$6,000 savings. She said she as well had reduced that and had the documentation submitted to show this. The supplies and materials could be absorbed through the 01 program.

The recommendation has allowed for no further funds for communications. As of the end of December only 33% of the funds set aside for communications had been spent.

Representative Wood asked Mr. Larson where he recommended the \$6,000 would come from. What would be the effect of this? Mr. Larson said the \$6,000 was a deduction in a purchase order on a printing contract. He said the \$6,000 might be the difference in being able to schedule publication on a three month basis instead of four months.

An employee was hired at Grade 10 and was to work toward the Grade 12. Although the employee is qualified now for a Grade 12, the promotion will not occur until July 1. Additional funds for this promotion will be needed in 1980 and 1981.

Chairman Menahan asked if this was shown on the supplemental and Mr. Larson replied that no it was only shown as a \$600 reduction in salary.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Wm Menahan
William Menahan, Chairman

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