MINUTES OF THE MEETING SENA'E LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE February 3, 1981

The meeting of the Local Government Committee was called to order by Chairman George McCallum on the above date in Room 405 at 1:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 236:

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LAW RELATING TO JOINT AND CONSOLIDATED PLANNING BOARDS.

Senator Conover, sponsor of the bill, handed out the proposed amendments to this bill. (See attached Exhibit A.) He said this bill clarifies the existing law to form city-county planning boards. Some cities, including Columbus, have already formed such a board. By putting this bill into effect, it will make it lawful for the formation of joint or consolidated boards. This bill gives the governing bodies the authority to form these boards. The importance of the planning board is underestimated. Montana is effected by urban sprawl. City problems are extended to the rural areas. Growth can be controlled and planned in a better manner. Joint and consolidated boards can lower the costs of planning. This bill will simply clarify the law.

Rose Leavitt of the League of Women Voters supports orderly community growth through innovative land use planning. This bill clarifies the law on this. The League supports this bill.

Ken Peterson, Billings City Attorney, said Billings is the fastest growing city in the state. Because of that, they have a concern with respect to orderly growth. He fully supports the bill as is written and also supports Senator Conover's amendment. Billings has a city-county planning board formed under state law. The law, as construed in some places, says that the city-county board appoints the staff. These volunteers are expected to plan for the City of Billings and the County of Yellowstone and are also expected to administer the staff. The members often don't have the time and the expertise to The law indicates you can form a board by administer staff. interlocal agreement. The City of Billings and County of Yellowstone got together on this and agreed someone needed to administer the staff. It was felt the city would be in the best position to administer the staff. He drafted the agreement. Attorney General's Office found a problem with it. They felt they could not exercise the powers set forth in the agreement.

Kalispell has done what this bill proposes to do, operating outside the law. The only reason these people are doing it is because no one complains. This bill allows cities and counties to work together and discuss the structure of the city and county. The amendments were drafted by Rich Weddle of the Department of Community Affairs. Perhaps by interlocal agreement the board could not restrict the powers. On page 2, line 15 he is not sure that the word "no" should be there.

Dan Anderson, representing the City of Great Falls, supports this bill. The city planning board creates a problem for an area that is expanding. This bill gives the city or county the ability to direct their staff so they do not have to rely on a lay board for that correction.

There were no further proponents and no opponents appearing before the committee.

Senator Conover added, in closing, that Columbus already has this and they do not want to be breaking the law. Making the amendment on page 2, line 15 is fine with him. He moved that we strike the word "no" from line 15. This motion passed unanimously.

Senator McCallum then asked for questions from the committee.

Senator O'Hara asked if this gives the staff more authority to do things on their own.

Ken Peterson said no, it puts the staff under the administrator's power but does not increase power.

Senator O'Hara then asked if this takes away any power from the board.

Mr. Peterson explained it does take away some power of the board but only the power to administer the staff. It does not take away any of the planning power.

DISCUSSION ON SENATE BILL NO. 22: Senator O'Hara moved that SB22 receive a DO NOT PASS from the committee. He said the ones objecting here were junk car dealers. It also involves the alcohol and gas taxes.

Senator McCallum said the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Office said there were problems with the bill.

Senator Thomas made a substitute motion that we table Senate Bill No. 22. This motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 215:

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE FEES CHARGED BY THE COUNTY SHERIFF FOR SERVICE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.

Senator Mazurek of District 16 in Helena, sponsor of the bill, said this bill seeks to increase fees the sheriffs charge for service and process of papers in civil actions. These are most commonly summons of complaints. The current charge is \$2 and they are asking to raise it to \$10. The \$2 does not come anywhere near the cost of covering this service. He handed out a breakdown of their cost per service for 1978-80. (See attached Exhibit B.) There was a similar bill introduced last session but the money was earmarked to go into the sheriff's auxiliary not to be used to operate the civil department. This bill provides it goes to the sheriff's budget. This will not totally offset the cost of serving these but does help the local taxpayers.

Bob Murdo, representing himself, said this all came about when Sheriff O'Reilly was putting figures together on this. It is a major problem throughout the state. You are taking taxpayers' money out of the general fund to pay for these services. The cost is not going to the people creating these problems. It is the people using the services that should have to pay for them.

Sheriff O'Reilly, Lewis and Clark County Sheriff, said law enforcement has been noticing a statewide move whereby county commissioners are approaching them to look into various funding methods other than the general fund. This is a small way but will make that portion nearly self-sustaining in the sheriff's office. They do feel it is a proper charge against the user and relieves some of the burden of the general taxpayer. He wanted to add they will not be getting a double budget from this.

John Scully, representing the Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, spoke in favor of the bill. He made reference to the bill that was introduced during the last session to raise fees. He wanted the committee to be aware there is a mileage charge in addition to the service cost.

There were no further proponents and no opponents of the bill appearing before the committee.

Senator McCallum then asked for questions from the committee.

Senator O'Hara asked Senator Mazurek or Sheriff O'Reilly if they have visited with Senator Turnage on this.

Senator Mazurek said yes he had talked to him before the bill was introduced. Senator Turnage did not give his blessing to the \$10

figure but did think they needed some increase. The \$10 figure is what it is costing the sheriff's department.

Senator O'Hara asked John Scully if the mileage charge is added now.

Mr. Scully said yes, mileage is charged now in addition to the fee.

Senator Van Valkenburg asked Sheriff O'Reilly for a rough break-down of his \$52,000 budget.

Sheriff O'Reilly said this allows him 1.5 secretaries, a captain and two patrolmen to serve papers. This is also for gas and maintenance of vehicles.

Senator Van Valkenburg asked if the captain and two patrolmen work full time.

Sheriff O'Reilly said yes, they each work about 44 hours per week.

Senator Van Valkenburg asked Senator Mazurek or John Scully if historically, the general taxpayers haven't always supported the entire court system, in particular process serving, as part of the justice function of the government.

Senator Mazurek said that is probably correct. The fees have been very low. In 1975 it was increased from \$1 to \$2 but prior to that it had been \$1 for a great many years.

John Scully said Senator Van Valkenburg's comment was true. Society is going to have to pick up the tab for court fees, but to what percentage or degree do you want that to continue to happen. There is a basic level where all general taxpayers, in order to have a court system, are going to have to foot the bill. He thinks people using the services should be paying more than they currently are.

Senator Conover asked Sheriff O'Reilly if, in essence, this would be saving the taxpayers \$32,000.

Sheriff O'Reilly said that is correct. He wanted to add to his previous answer regarding his budget that with the existing workload of serving papers, he has to take patrolmen off their regular duties to assist the regular two patrolmen in their duties.

There were no further questions from the committee.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 204:

AN ACT TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM AGE AT WHICH A FIREFIGHTER MAY BE HIRED FROM 31 YEARS TO 35 YEARS OF AGE.

Senator Steve Brown of District 15, sponsor of the bill, said that over a year ago he received a call from a constituent that had applied for a position with the fire department and found out the maximum age they could be hired was 31. This person was 32 at the time and had passed his physical examination. You can become a policeman until the age of 35. If you can start a career as a policeman at the age of 35, you should be able to start a career as a fireman at that age also. He handed out a proposed amendment. (See attached Exhibit C.) The amendment makes it clear that Montana determining a maximum age limit is a bonified qualification. He then introduced Ken Bangert.

Ken Bangert, representing himself, was the constituent Senator Brown had referred to. Ken was 32 at the time he applied. He has a letter from the City of Helena stating he was number 2 on the list so there was ro problem with intelligence. The problem seems to be with retirement. He does not see why retirement cannot be prorated.

There were no further proponents. Senator McCallum then called for opponents.

Ray Blehm of the Montara State Firemen's Association said there is a bill that is pending in the House of Representatives that could have a direct impact on their retirement and this bill. Firefighters are required to climb large ladders and haul a lot of heavy equipment up them. When you have the 35 year age maximum coupled with 25 years of service, you are looking at a 60 year old firefighter. This bill would put you at 55 for retirement. He is definitely in favor of the amendment offered. The current law may not be binding as far as the federal government is concerned but it is necessary to some extent. He urges the committee to consider the amendment and put it back to age 31.

Mike Walker of the Montana State Council of Firefighters said not too many people know of all the requirements involved. It takes from 4 to 5 years to develop a firefighter to be able to work by himself. At age 35, this experience would put him at 39 or 40. This cuts down the productive life of the firefighter. Hypertension is considered the firefighters' disease. It usually attacks people between the ages of 35 and 38 years old. You have to take that into consideration. Often times your life depends on the fellow next to you.

No further opponents appeared before the committee.

Senator Brown added, in closing, that maybe no age limit is valid. A man at the age of 38 can be physically unable to be a firefighter. The issue should be what kind of physical shape you are in, not at what age you can start. If the maximum age for policemen is

35, he can see no distinction. A firefighter has to demonstrate his ability yearly through a physical.

Senator McCallum then called for questions from the committee.

Senator Hammond wanted someone to explain how the retirement program is set up. Is it on the basis of years and salary.

Mr. Blehm said you have to serve 20 years and be 50 years of age. You must be an active fireman at age 50. Deaths among firemen are about double that of policemen. Firefighting is a more hazardous profession.

Senator O'Hara asked Ray Blehm how many firefighters died in the last five years in Montana.

Mr. Blehm did not have that kind of statistics with him.

Senator Ochsner asked Mr. Blehm what the going rate of retirement was today.

Mr. Blehm explained they have an escalator provision.

Senator Van Valkenburg asked Mr. Blehm what minimum age other jurisdictions use.

Mr. Blehm did not know. He said in talking to other people around the country they are trying to keep it as low as possible for the reasons they have stated.

Senator McCallum asked Mr. Blehm if disability did not start until after 5 years of service.

Mr. Blehm said you do not get coverage until after 6 months of service and you are confirmed.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL NO. 152: A motion was made by Senator Hammond that this bill receive a DO PASS.

Senator Van Valkenburg wonders about taking the floor out of this thing where there is no requirement that the people benefiting from this pay a specific amount. Taking off the ceiling is okay where they would have to pay the whole amount. You would be leaving it to the discretion of the local government.

Senator Hammond's motion carried unanimously. Senate Bill No. 152 DO PASS.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL NO. 116: Senator Van Valkenburg offered an amendment which would provide the first \$100,000 of forest receipts would go to the counties and anything beyond that

would be shared with the cities. That cuts down the number of counties that would be effected.

Senator Hammond asked if the first \$100,000 would go to the county and after that the rest would be split on the basis of population.

Senator Van Valkenburg sald yes. He then moved the amendments to the bill.

Senator O'Hara asked if this is basically the counties that are pretty well off that would be kicking into this.

Senator Van Valkenburg said yes, it would be counties like Flathead, Lincoln, Missoula and Sancers. The lowest would be Granite County at \$140,000. Granite County would receive the first \$100,000 plus another \$18,000. Philipsburg would get \$18,000 for roads and streets.

Senator McCallum said the Sanders County Commissioners said the three incorporated towns in the county would receive approximately \$175,000 for approximately 6 miles of road under this proposal. Most trucks travel the highways, not city roads and highways are maintained by the state. These counties don't have much of a tax base.

Senator Van Valkenburg said these are not payments in lieu of taxes. These monies are paid to share the wealth as a result of impacts.

Senator McCallum said the federal law says for public roads within the county, not the city.

Senator Van Valkenburg said the express intent of Congress was to share the wealth of the resources located in the county. The vehicle use in town is much greater than on county roads.

Senator Hammond said he doesn't see how it can be divided by population when the law expressly says it is for the care of public roads. You have to divide it by roads, not people. We need to write a prescription to fit all counties.

Senator Ochsner doesn't think we are legally able to pick out certain towns and say they should have more money than the rest of them. You have to give to all or none.

Senator Van Valkenburg said you can't make much of a difference in the condition of roads with less than \$100,000. The people use the roads, the roads don't use themselves so you have to take that into consideration.

Senator Van Valkenburg's motion to move the amendments failed.

Senator Hammond moved the original bill DO NOT PASS. This motion carried with all but Senator Van Valkenburg voting aye.

DISCUSSION ON SENATE BILL NO. 215: Senator O'Hara thinks this might be a money-saving measure for the counties. The people using the services would be paying for them. The general county monies could be spent for other things. He moves this bill DO PASS.

Senator Hammond said not all people are as prone to use the courts as actively as others.

Senator O'Hara said people that use the service should pay for it. He then withdrew his motion.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL NO. 236: Senator Thomas moved the amendments. They passed unanimously. He then moved that Senate Bill No. 236 DO PASS as amended. This motion also passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Chairman George McCallum

ROLL CALL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

47th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1981 Date 2/3/8/

| NAME | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
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| Senator George McCallum | | | |
| Senator Jesse O'Hara | $\sqrt{}$ | | |
| Senator H. W. Hammond | | | |
| Senator J. Donald Ochsner | | | |
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COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

_BILL NO. __SB204

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February 3, 1981

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February 3, 1981

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Proposed Amendment to SB236 (Introduced Bill)

(1) Title, line 7

Following: "CONSOLIDATED BOARD"

Strike: punctuation

Insert: "AND RESERVE TO ITSELF CERTAIN POWERS AND DUTIES OF PLANKING BOARDS;"

(2) Page 2, line 9

Following: line 8

Insert:

"(4) The interlocal agreement may reserve to one or more of the participating governing bodies any of the powers and duties which this chanter assigns to planning boards."

this chapter assigns to planning boards."

Renumber: all subsequent subsections

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SENATE BILL 236

Senate Bill 236 clarifies the laws that relate to the forming of joint city-county planning boards, as well as consolidated planning boards, and authorizes any governing body which has the power to form such a board to do so.

The importance of having a planning board that can plan for an entire area cannot be underestimated. Montana is a growing state, and with the further development of our resources, more growth cannot help but take place. Montana is also a state that is affected by urban sprawl, with the large cities exceeding their boundaries, going out into the county, and extending what were city problems out into the county.

Under these circumstances, cooperation between the city and county governments, especially in the planning areas, is essential. Growth affects all areas of government. The special districts, water, school, fire, sewer, sanitation, etc., are all affected by growth. Urban sprawl causes these same problems for the county. Through joint or consolidated boards, this growth can be controlled and planned, and the economic and administrative impact can be distributed in a better manner, taking into consideration the resources of the governing bodies. Joint and consolidated planning boards can also reduce per capita costs, bring about economics of scale in capital investments (school, etc.) and equity in tax and service boundaries.

This amendment, of course, does not bring about a joint planning board. What it does do is clarify the law and hopefully make it easier for these boards to be formed. Given the importance of this process, I hope that you will concur favorably with Senate Bill 236.

Each year the number of civil processes received and served increases.

The examples used herein are taken from records kept by the Civil Bureau, Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Department, Helena, Montana.

During 1976 the department received 3,354 processes for service.

Processes for 1980 will be well over 5,000.

The year 1977 the budget for operating the Civil Bureau was \$37,035. Dividing this by 3,946 the number of processes received, equals \$9.39 the cost for each service. During 1977 the Civil Bureau collected and remitted to the County General Fund the sum of \$7,390 for service of process. Divide \$7,390 (amount collected) by 3,946 (papers received) equals \$1.87 (average collected for each service). When this latter figure, \$1.87 is subtracted from the cost of service, \$9.39 we arrive at a cost of \$7.52 per service that is paid by the tax-payers. This amounts to \$29,673.92 for the year that the tax-payers of Lewis and Clark County have put forth for the service of civil process; representing a burdon that should be rightfully placed on the parties so involved with the civil actions.

Using this same method for the years following:

- Budget-\$38,882; processes received 4,413; cost = \$8.80 collected-\$9,141; average collected per service = \$2.07 Tax-payer cost per service=\$6.73 Total = \$29,699.49
- Budget-\$46,658; Processes received 4,928; cost = \$9.47
 collected-\$11,396; average collected per service = \$2.31
 Tax-payer cost per service=\$7.16 Total = \$35,284.48
- 1980 Budget-\$52,000; Processes received as of 11-30-1980 equal 4,728. 11/12ths of budget = \$47,666; divided by processes received to date (4,728) = cost per service of \$10.08.

collected to date = \$15,055 ; average collected per service = \$3.18

Tax-payer cost per service = \$6.90 Total = \$32,623.20

The purpose and intent of the Amendment to Increase the Fees of the Sheriff for service of Civil processes is not to line the coffers of the counties, but rather to relieve the burden now imposed on County Tax-payers.

Amend S.B. 204:

Page 1, line 10, after Insert "Because of the rigorous physical demands of the firefighting profession and the expectation of many years of emergency service, the State of Montana determines that age is valid bonafide occupational qualification for the position of firefighter.

Page: 1 Line: 10

Following: "Firefighters."

Insert: "The state of Montana Retermnes that age 7.5 a valid bonatide occupational qualification for the position of Firefighter because of the rigorous physical demands of the fire-fighting profession and the expectation of many years of emergency service."

Senate Bill 204

Firemen's maximum age limit for employment in other states of the union.

California - maximum age: 35

Idaho - mo age limit; depends on
health of applicant

Pennsylvania - maximum age: 35

7exas - maximum age: 36

Utah - mo age limit; depends on
health of applicant

Washington - mo age limit; depends on
health of applicant

Wyoming - maximum age: 33

* note: In the states where there is no age limit, it is up to the firefighters commission to determine if a man is capable of fighting fires. They take into account the results of the physical and the duties which will be placed on the applicant.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 3

PRESIDENT

We, your committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT

having had under consideration SEARTE Bill No. 116

Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE Bill No. 116

DO NOT PASS

GEORGE MCCALLUM

Chairman

31

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

| | | February 3 | 19 81 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | • | | |
| | | | |
| MR. PRESIDENT | | | |
| We, your committee on | LOC L GOVERNMENT | | |
| having had under consideration | Senate | | Bill No 152 |
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| Respectfully report as follows: T | hat SENATE | | Bill No. 152 |
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DO PASS

24

GEORGE MCCALLUM Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

| | February 3 | 19 |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
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| MR. PRESIDENT | | |
| We, your committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT | | |
| naving had under considerationSENATE | | Bill No. 236 |
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| | | |
| Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE | | Bill No. 236 |
| be amended as follows: | | |
| l. Title, line 7. Following: "CONSOLIDATED BOARD" Insert: "AND RESERVE TO ITSELF CERTAIN | N POWERS AND DUTIES | OF PLANNING |
| BOARDS" | | |
| Page 2. Pollowing: line 8 Insert: "(4) The interlocal agreement the participating governing bodies at this chapter assigns to planning boas | ny of the powers and | |
| Renumber: all subsequent subsections | | |
| 3. Page 2, line 15. Following: "the" Strike: "no" | | |
| | | - |
| And, as so amended, DO PASS | | |
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Chairman.

STATE PUB. CO. Helena, Mont.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

| pate 2/3/81 Senate B | ill No. <u>//6</u> | Time /:/5 |
|--|--------------------|--------------|
| | | |
| AME | YES | NO |
| | | |
| Senator George McCallum | | |
| Senator Jesse O'Hara | | |
| Senator H. W. Hammond | \checkmark | |
| Senator J. Donald Ochsner | ✓ / | |
| Senator Bill Thomas | | |
| Senator Max Conover | | |
| Senator Fred Van Valkenburg | | |
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| Yoil Tahuell | Van m | A W. |
| Secretary, Gail Stockwell Cr | mairman, GEORGE | MCCALLUM |
| Notion: Geneta Hanmond move | 0.46 - 1500 C | 2) Alot PASO |
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| (include enough information on motion—put committee report.) | with yellow copy | of |

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

| Date 2/3/81 Senals | Bill No. | 152 | _ Time_ | 1:15 |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|------|
| VAME | | YES | | NO. |
| Senator George McCallum | | | | |
| Senator Jesse O'Hara | | 1 | | |
| Senator H. W. Hammond | | 1/ | | |
| Senator J. Donald Ochsner | | V | | |
| Senator Bill Thomas | | J | | |
| Senator Max Conover | | J | | |
| Senator Fred Van Valkenburg | | V | | |
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| Hil Horkwell Secretary, Gail Stockwell | Skory Chairman | () [[]], , GEORGE | MCCAL | LUM |
| Motion: <u>Senator Hammend</u> | | | | |
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| (include enough information on motion committee report.) | —put with ye | llow copy | of | |

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| ME | YES | NO |
| | | |
| Senator George McCallum | $\sqrt{}$ | |
| Senator Jesse O'Hara | \checkmark | |
| Senator H. W. Hammond | \checkmark | |
| Senator J. Donald Ochsner | $\sqrt{}$ | |
| Senator Bill Thomas | $\sqrt{}$ | |
| Senator Max Conover | | |
| Senator Fred Van Valkenburg | | |
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| X4: 457 B M | H. m | i. 110 |
| Secretary, Gail Stockwell Ch | Serves M. Lairman, GEORGE MC | CALLUM |
| otion: Lington Thomas moved | 11 No 1000 | |

(include enough information on motion—put with yellow copy of committee report.)