

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Huebert at 3:40 p.m. on March 10, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Sloan – excused  
Representative Lane – excused

Representative Hineman – excused  
Representative Garber - excused

Committee staff present:

Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Departments  
Eunice Peters, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Larry Powell, District 117, Garden City, Kansas  
Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel and Director of Legislative Services, Kansas Association of Counties  
Darryl Lutz, County Engineer and Director of Public Works, Butler County

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2314 – Finney County Drainage District No. 2; election of directors.**

Staff Eunice Peters said that the bill is a reintroduction of legislation from 2009 and would change the term of office for Drainage District No. 2 of Finney County from a three-year staggered term to a four-year staggered term.

Representative Larry Powell, District 117, Garden City, Kansas, spoke as a proponent of **HB 2314**. He noted that the knowledge and experience of previous board directors provides comprehensive direction for newly elected directors (Attachment 1). When asked a question regarding the election cycle, Representative Powell said that the community could be flexible as to the spring or fall elections. The Chairman requested staff research the possibility of a director inadvertently serving for a six-year period.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2314**.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 112 - Amendments to statutes pertaining to land surveyors.**

Staff Eunice Powers explained the bill addresses the requirements of county commissioners in the appointment of land surveyors holding official duties as county surveyors. She noted the bill includes many facets, including language delineating legal descriptions of tracts of land, the recording of plats with the register of deeds within 90 days, redefining the responsibilities of record-keeping, restoring any excavation or fill-covering of a corner monument, and designating criminal penalties of any individual who threatens or interferes with surveyors while they are performing their duties.

Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel and Director of Legislative Services, Kansas Association of Counties, spoke as a proponent of **SB 112**, saying that the bill is a compromise among surveyors, county engineers and highway personnel to protect the public and satisfy the concerns of each of the organizations (Attachment 2). She noted that some individuals in the organizations disagreed with their association's position on various issues. (The Chairman requested staff to provide copies of testimony given in opposition to the bill.) Ms. Wangemann requested the committee find the bill favorable for passage.

Darryl Lutz, County Engineer and Director of Public Works, Butler County, speaking as a proponent of **SB 112**, said that associations have worked for the past ten years to update county surveyor statutes and survey review statutes, many of which relate to county roads and bridges (Attachment 3). He noted that the issue of reviews has been contentious in past years and this bill provides a compromise among the various agencies and associations. Mr. Lutz requested the committee consider the bill favorable for passage.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Elections Committee at 3:30 p.m. on March 10, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

The hearing on **SB 112** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2011.