

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 – 12:00 p.m. – Room 215 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Deidre M. Henderson, Chair
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson

Members Absent:

Sen. Jim Dabakis

Staff Present:

Mr. Leif G. Elder, Policy Analyst
Ms. Sara J. Thomas, Legislative Secretary

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

1. Committee Business

Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Proposed Appointment of John Valentine as Utah State Tax Commissioner

Sen. John Valentine expressed his gratitude to the governor for this nomination. He explained that he views this position as a capstone after practicing tax law for 38 years. Sen. Valentine noted that his legislative experience will better allow him to administer the tax policy created by the Legislature. He honored the outgoing tax commissioner, Mr. Bruce Johnson, for his reasoned and methodical work. He emphasized the importance for the Utah State Tax Commission to collect the correct tax, rather than the highest tax.

Mr. Bruce Johnson, Chair, Utah State Tax Commission, spoke in favor of Sen. Valentine's nomination. He commended the governor for nominating someone with Sen. Valentine's abilities and expertise.

Ms. D'Arcy Dixon Pignanelli, Utah State Tax Commissioner, expressed her appreciation and respect for Mr. Johnson as the outgoing chair of the Utah State Tax Commission. She explained that the commission is committed to a smooth transition with an emphasis on continuity while accepting new methods. Speaking in favor of Sen. Valentine's nomination, Ms. Dixon Pignanelli welcomed him and acknowledged his background and expertise in the private sector as well as the Legislature.

Chair Henderson expressed her appreciation for Mr. Johnson's work on the Utah State Tax Commission.

Sen. Stephenson conveyed his respect for both Sen. Valentine and Mr. Johnson. He described changes to the Utah State Tax Commission under Governor Matheson, 30 years ago, to ensure that qualified individuals sit on the commission. He spoke in support of Sen. Valentine's nomination.

Sen. Shiozawa acknowledged the vital role of the Utah State Tax Commission. He thanked Mr. Johnson for his service on the Utah State Tax Commission and thanked Sen. Valentine for his mentorship in the Legislature. He spoke in favor of Sen. Valentine's nomination.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved that the committee recommend favorably to the full Senate that Sen. John Valentine be appointed as a tax commissioner. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Shiozawa moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Henderson adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.