

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

Wednesday, June 17, 2015 – 7:30 a.m. – Room 215 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Deidre M. Henderson, Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Wayne A. Harper
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson

Staff Present:

Mr. Leif G. Elder, Policy Analyst
Ms. Bree A. Frehner, 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 7:30 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Bramble moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Davis and Sen. Harper were absent for the vote.

2. Consideration of Proposed Appointment of Rebecca Rockwell as Utah State Tax Commissioner

Ms. Rebecca Rockwell expressed appreciation for the opportunity she has had to serve the Legislature for more than 22 years. She expressed gratitude to the governor for this nomination and to the Utah State Tax Commission for their support. She elaborated on work she has done with tax law while serving the Legislature. She addressed her future role with the Utah State Tax Commission and emphasized the importance that the Utah State Tax Commission collect the correct tax, rather than the highest tax.

Mr. Billy Hesterman, Utah Taxpayers Association, spoke in favor of Ms. Rockwell's nomination. He also praised recent legislative changes concerning appointments to the Utah State Tax Commission.

Mr. Gary Thorup, attorney, Durham Jones and Pinager, discussed work he has done with Ms. Rockwell in past years. He spoke in favor of Ms. Rockwell's nomination.

Mr. John Valentine, Chair, Utah State Tax Commission, spoke in favor of Ms. Rockwell's nomination. He remarked on the bill that changed the qualifications for members of the Utah State Tax Commission. He also mentioned that though Ms. Rockwell will serve well on the commission, they will miss having her as a resource at the Legislature.

Mr. Barry Conover, Executive Director, Utah State Tax Commission, remarked that every division director at the Utah State Tax Commission was in attendance to support Ms. Rockwell. He spoke in favor of Ms. Rockwell's nomination.

Sen. Dabakis asked about Ms. Rockwell's political affiliation. Ms. Rockwell responded that she is unaffiliated.

Sen. Stephenson remarked on his experience working with Ms. Rockwell. He praised Ms. Rockwell for her service to the Legislature, to the community, and to her family. He spoke in favor of Ms. Rockwell's nomination.

Sen. Harper conveyed his respect for Ms. Rockwell and discussed his experience working with Ms. Rockwell. He spoke in favor of Ms. Rockwell's nomination.

Sen. Bramble elaborated on Ms. Rockwell's allegiance to the law rather than to any political party and praised her integrity. He spoke in favor of Ms. Rockwell's nomination.

Chair Henderson expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with Ms. Rockwell and praised the governor for his recommendation. She spoke in favor of Ms. Rockwell's nomination.

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

3. Other Items / Adjourn

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

Chair Henderson adjourned the meeting at 7:54 a.m.