

**MINUTES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
AND  
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS  
INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 • 9:00 a.m. • Room 30 House Building

**Members**

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair  
Rep. Craig A. Frank, House Cochair  
Rep. Fred Hunsaker, House Cochair  
Sen. Jon J. Greiner  
Sen. Ralph Okerlund  
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard  
Rep. Ron Bigelow  
Rep. Jim Bird  
Rep. Ben C. Ferry  
Rep. Janice M. Fisher  
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson  
Rep. Keith Grover  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. John G. Mathis  
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig  
Rep. Curt R. Webb  
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Scott D. McCoy  
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Christopher R. Parker, Associate General Counsel  
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Wendy Bangerter, 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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hunsaker moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Ferry, Rep. Gibson, Rep. Grover, Rep. Mathis, and Rep. Seelig were absent for the vote.

**2. Federal Stimulus Monies to the State of Utah and its Political Subdivisions -- Briefing**

Mr. John E. Nixon, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB), distributed and reviewed "Recovery Act Status Report" and a memorandum written to the state agencies with the subject line: "Processing ARRA Funded Procurements and Grants through State Purchasing."

Mr. Michael Mower, State Planning Coordinator, GOPB, gave a briefing on the allocation and use of federal stimulus monies under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Utah entities have received approximately \$1.9 billion from the stimulus bill, \$1.288 billion was distributed to Utah state agencies and \$623 million to other Utah entities. He discussed managing expectations of the funds being received and reviewed specific areas that have not received funding that will still need to be considered. He explained the state requesting and tracking requirements and provided a list of Utah agency contacts that can answer questions on specific uses of funds.

**3. Election Law Changes from the County Clerks**

Mr. Parker explained that the County Clerks' Association in Utah has been charged with the responsibility to make recommendations regarding election law changes.

Mr. Scott L. Hogensen, Chief Deputy Auditor and Chairman of the Clerks' Legislative Policy Committee, Utah County, distributed and reviewed "Utah County Clerks--Legislative Policy Committee Interim Discussion Items" and "Special District Election Proposal - August 2009 Update." The proposal from the county clerks included adding age or date of birth to nominating petitions, voter ID provisions, making election day a teacher preparation day, state school board nomination process changes, a change in voting centers, a deadline for ballot changes, and privacy and voter registration. He also reported on the progress being made to provide a single ballot for all voters at elections to include local district elections.

#### **4. Privatization Policy Board -- Annual Report**

Mr. Christensen explained that the Privatization Policy Board is required to review whether or not an agency-provided good or service could be privatized to result in cost savings. The Board is required to present an annual report to the Legislature and also to provide an inventory of commercial activities currently being provided by government agencies.

Sen. Brent Goodfellow, Chair, Privatization Policy Board, reported that the Board continues to take testimony from both business and industry and governmental departments to review services and functions. He distributed "Commercial Activity Analysis," a test questionnaire to possibly be used to help the Board in making its determinations. The report included the status of the commercial activities inventory.

Rep. Frank encouraged the Board to proceed quickly.

#### **5. Competition Between the Private Sector and Local Government in Providing a Service**

Mr. Wade explained that the purpose of this agenda item is to examine issues relating to the providing of health care services in Duchesne and Uintah Counties. Duchesne County wholly owns a 501(c)(3) nonprofit health care corporation that also provides services in Vernal (Uintah County). A for-profit health care facility already exists in Vernal. He introduced representatives from the two different perspectives.

Mr. Brad Lebaron, President and CEO of Uintah Basin Medical Center, distributed and reviewed "Uintah Basin Healthcare" and explained the services being provided in the Uintah Basin and throughout neighboring communities.

Mr. Si Hutt, Ashley Regional Medical Center (for-profit facility), explained how expansion of Uintah Basin Healthcare into Uintah County is unfairly competing with private enterprise. He feels they are operating as a government entity because they can receive funding only available to government entities.

Rep. Frank stated he would like to continue the dialogue.

#### **6. Other Items / Adjourn**

Rep. Ferry moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Bird, and Rep. Seelig were absent for the vote.

Chair Knudson adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.