

Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Tuesday, July 29, 1996 Meeting, 1:00 PM

Indiana State Library Auditorium

140 North Senate Avenue; Indianapolis, Indiana

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sue W. Scholer called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 P.M. Representative Scholer announced there was a quorum present (Attendance sheet attached) and requested that everyone introduce themselves and mention anything particularly pertinent to the commission. After introductions, Representative Scholer asked for questions or comments in regard to the minutes of the March 26, 1996 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

AGENDA

- Call to Order Chairperson Sue W. Scholer
- Approval of Minutes of March 26, 1996 Meeting Commission Members
- White Paper II Presentation Larry DeBoer
- Federal Budget Update Kerry Wiersma
- NLC's Report: *Government Responsibility-Civility* Gardest Gillespie
- Director's Reports
 - Forthcoming White Papers & Fact Books John L. Krauss
 - Local Government Survey Tracy L. Williams
 - AIC & IACT Conferences John L. Krauss
 - Fact Book Update John L. Krauss
- National ACIR Survey / Direction of ACIR Tracy L. Williams
Sue W. Scholer, Chair
- Other Business
- Next Meetings

Monday, September 16, 1996
Radisson Hotel, Merrillville, IN
3:00 P.M. (tentative)
*in conjunction with the
Indiana Association of Cities and
Towns Annual Meeting.

Monday, September 30, 1996
Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, IN
9:00 A.M.
*in conjunction with the
Association of Indiana Counties
Annual Conference.

- Adjournment
-

REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

Following the agenda, Representative Scholer announced that Larry DeBoer would not be presenting his white paper entitled *Indiana's Market Value Assessment Study*, due to sudden illness. However, several commission members did attend the Real Property Assessment Practices meeting on July 25, 1996 and some discussion seemed appropriate. Staff Director John L. Krauss indicated that staff had distributed some of the material from the Real Property Assessment Practices meeting which was submitted by the Manufacturer's Association in regard to the pluses and minuses of the tax system. In addition, Representative Scholer read a letter from the Clinton County Auditor outlining similar concerns from the view point of auditors. Commission members who attended the July 25th meeting concurred there was valuable information presented, especially by the gentleman from St. John who outlined the presenting problem in Lake County. It was expressed that the deadline for the restructuring would likely change from 1998 to 2000 or 2001. IACIR members were hopeful that this attempt to restructure the tax system would include the school, welfare, and local government funding, as well. It was agreed that this was an enormous intergovernmental issue and perhaps this commission could play a vital role in helping the legislature.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Next Kerry Wiersma, a Budget Analyst for the State Budget Agency presented an update to the Federal Budget appropriation and resolutions. Attached is a copy the presentation, overheads, memo to Kathy Davis on welfare reform, and a description of the use of summer youth funds (per request by commission members).

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next, Councilman Gardest Gillespie presented work the National League of Cities Advisory Council is doing in respect to Government Responsibility-Civility. Mr. Gillespie spoke of how the advisory council is exploring ways to reconnect citizens to government, as well as the stability of government. He stressed the importance of connecting people with government in an effort to help citizens understand how government really works. Mr. Gillespie and the advisory council encourage all elected officials to help their citizens feel that they are a part of government through involvement in decision making processes.

UPCOMING WHITE PAPERS

Following Mr. Gillespie's presentation, Mr. Krauss preceded to introduce upcoming topics for White Papers. The next scheduled White Paper discusses watersheds and flooding in respect to how governments form stormwater utilities. Some commissions members expressed their lack of interest in

this subject, therefore the staff agreed to send a draft of this White Paper for commission member review.

Another future White Paper discusses technological changes and the impact to local government.

OTHER REPORTS

Tracy Williams, Staff Research Assistant, mentioned she was is finalizing a report on the trends in Indiana's Child Welfare. The report details both the incidences of abuse and neglect and the trends in expenditure with the state, as well as compares it to other states.

Mr. Krauss informed the commission that the Fact Book on local government revenues was being updated with new information and was set for release within a week.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY

Ms. Williams presented some of the preliminary results of *The State of Local, State, and Federal Issues Facing Government in Indiana*. Although only 286 of the 375 returned surveys had been entered into the computer for analysis, Ms. Williams was able to present what the results may conceivably reflect. Regardless of the results, this survey reinforces our perceptions of local government's status and gives this commission a baseline. The complete survey results will be presented at the next commission meeting held in conjunction with the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns Annual conference in Merrillville, Indiana.

Commission members questioned whether the results of the survey would be the same if given to the Indiana House and Senate. Correspondingly, the question was raised as to whether the general public's answers would echo those of their elected officials. Councilor Gillespie motioned to expand the survey to include a citizens random sample and the General Assembly. Mayor Berkmeier second the motion. However, after the motion Mr. Krauss was asked how he would go about accomplishing this task. Mr. Krauss indicated that surveying the entire legislature would be relatively easy and inexpensive. In contrast, a random sample of citizens would not only involve contracting out, but would be expensive as well. It was than suggested that it would help the commission if staff would prepare a summary of the IACIR budget and how it works. A motion for the staff to go forward with the additional survey of legislators, and on the general public providing there is adequate funding. The motion carried. It was pointed out that legislators are currently overloaded with surveys and many are focusing on re-election. In an effort to receive the highest survey return rate and to obtain the attitudes and opinions of newly elected officials rather than those leaving office, the commission members requested staff to distribute the survey after the November elections.

PER DIEM

In conjunction with the budget issue, Representative Scholer and Mr. Krauss clarified the situation in regard to the per diem for commission members. Per diem for members of the general assembly on the IACIR is paid by the Indiana Legislative Services Agency. Per diem for the non-general assembly

members is paid out of the \$50,000 dollar appropriation. Per diem is paid for IACIR meetings called by the chair.

NATIONAL ACIR SURVEY RESULTS

All commission members had previously received a copy of the *A National Survey of Advisory Commissions on Intergovernmental Relations*. There were no questions in regard to the survey. Ms. Williams commented that of the 12 ACIRs responding to the survey, many had included school board members or administrator as members on their commissions. In general, the IACIR mission, meetings, issues, accomplishments, and communication methods appear to fit many of those described as effective by other existing ACIRs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commission agreed to continue to keep abreast on timely issues in which the commission can request staff to research. In addition, commission members concurred in their desire to make informed recommendations to the legislature when deemed appropriate.

NEXT MEETING

The next staff meeting is scheduled in conjunction with the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns Annual Conference. The meeting will be at 3:00 P.M., Monday, September 16, 1996 at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana. Following this meeting, the commission has scheduled a meeting in connection with the Association of Indiana Counties Annual Conference at 9:00 A.M., Monday, September 30, 1996 at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis. Upon request to count those members planning to attend both meetings, Representative Scholer counted 9 commission members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 P.M.