

Members

Rep. Peggy Welch, Chair
Rep. Tiny Adams
Rep. Gloria Goeglein
Rep. Matt Whetstone
Sen. Becky Skillman, Vice-Chair
Sen. Rose Antich
Sen. Mark Blade
Sen. Steven Johnson
John Catey
Garland Ferrell
Frank Fritch
Al Dillon
Richard Dodge
Vernon Jewell
Richard Jones
Douglas Lechner
Jean Paul Lushin
Bill Mansard
Gloria Stephani



COUNTY GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

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Authority: P.L. 109-1997

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 28, 2000
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Rep. Peggy Welch, Chairperson; Rep. Gloria Goeglein; Sen. Becky Skillman, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Mark Blade; Garland Ferrell; Vernon Jewell; Douglas Lechner; John Catey; Al Dillon; Jean Paul Lushin; Richard Dodge.

Members Absent: Rep. Tiny Adams; Rep. Matt Whetstone; Sen. Steven Johnson; Sen. Rose Antich; Frank Fritch; Richard Jones; Gloria Stephani; Bill Mansard.

Rep. Peggy Welch, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. Rep. Welch stated that she received a letter from commission member Gloria Stephani stating that Ms. Stephani has resigned from the commission.

Jeff French, Ripley County Surveyor and President of the Indiana County Surveyor's Association

Mr. French stated that the Indiana County Surveyor's Association conducted an internal study regarding the duties of the county surveyor's office as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of the county surveyor's activities and services. Mr. French presented commission members with a copy of the survey results. Mr. French stated that 58 of the 92 county surveyors responded to the survey. Of the 58 respondents, 46% or 27 are licensed surveyors. He added that 80% or 74 of the 92 county surveyors are full time.

Mr. French stated that 57% of the government corners in Indiana have been reestablished and that corner perpetuation continues to be an important function of the county surveyor. He added that the responsibilities of a county surveyor have increased. Additional responsibilities of the county surveyor include:

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

- Reviewing annexation descriptions.
- Maintenance of the County Auditor's tax maps.
- Maintaining the County Clerk's election precinct maps.
- GIS inception and maintenance.
- Serving on the county plan commission.
- Publishing the county road maps.
- Regulated drain maintenance.
- Recording of legal surveys.

Mr. French concluded his remarks by stating that maintenance of, and accessibility to, data managed by the county surveyor's office must be openly available, and is best managed by an elected official who can be held publicly accountable for their actions.

Commission members asked questions of Mr. French and Kent Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor. Commission discussion ensued with the consensus of the members being that the county surveyor's office should be left as it is.

Commission Discussion

The commission members discussed the following recommendations presented in the Coalition on Monitoring Public Efficiency and Tax Expenditures Project (C.O.M.P.E.T.E.) report:

- Counties should be allowed and encouraged to build and operate multi-county correctional facilities.
- Removal of property tax assessment as a township function and assigned as a county function.

Based upon the commission discussion, it was unanimously recommended to introduce enabling legislation to allow for the establishment of correctional districts. The purpose of a correctional district is to encourage the establishment of a multi-county correctional facility.

The commission tabled any recommendations regarding a change in property tax assessment responsibilities.

Sen. Skillman stated that the Census Data Advisory Committee is looking at the C.O.M.P.E.T.E. recommendation regarding staggered municipal elections.

Other Commission Business

Rep. Welch encouraged commission members to contact the township assessors and the county assessor in their counties regarding who should do property tax assessment.

The next meeting of the County Government Study Commission is Thursday, October 12, 2000, 10:00 a.m., Room 233 of the State House.

There being no further business, Rep. Welch adjourned the meeting.