

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Jon Sonju, on February 7, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

##### **Members Present:**

Sen. Jon Sonju, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Art Wittich, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Shannon Augare (D)  
Sen. Edward Buttrey (R)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Lynda Moss (D)  
Sen. Alan Olson (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

##### **Members Excused:**

Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

##### **Members Absent:**

None

##### **Staff Present:**

Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch  
Kirk Lundby, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 240, 2/1/2011; SB 248, 2/1/2011  
Executive Action: SB 248 Do Pass As Amended  
Additional Information: SB 191

**HEARING ON SB 240**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:12 Sen. Lynda Moss (D), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 240, Revise laws related to street lighting improvement districts.  
00:01:26 Chairman Sonju turned chair duties over to Vice Chair Wittich

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:04:43 Russell Doty  
**EXHIBIT(los30a01)**  
00:14:36 Sen. Bob Hawks, SD 33

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:16:35 John Fitzpatrick, representing Northwestern Energy  
**EXHIBIT(los30a02)**  
00:25:42 Aidan Myhre, representing the MDU Resources Group, Inc.  
00:27:50 Don Allen, representing the Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA)

**Informational Testimony:**

00:29:24 Alec Hansen, representing the Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:31:39 Sen. Augare  
00:32:42 Sen. Vuckovich  
00:34:04 Russell Doty  
00:35:03 Sen. Buttrey  
00:35:49 Vice Chair Wittich  
00:36:14 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy  
00:37:05 Vice Chair Wittich  
00:37:45 Sen. Moss  
00:38:00 Russell Doty  
00:41:29 Vice Chair Wittich

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:41:41 Sen. Moss  
00:43:47 Vice Chair Wittich returned chair duties to Chairman Sonju

**HEARING ON SB 248**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:44:06 Sen. Kim Gillan (D), SD 24, opened the hearing on SB 248, Allow five member county tax appeal board.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:46:25 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
00:47:53 Ed Bartlett, representing Yellowstone County  
00:48:32 Holly Franz, representing the Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (SCPA)  
00:48:57 John Ostlund, President, (MACo)  
00:49:41 Ronda Wiggers, representing the Montana County Treasurers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:51:12 Sen. Vuckovich  
00:51:31 Sen. Gillan  
00:51:46 Sen. Vuckovich  
00:52:29 Sen. Gillan  
00:52:33 Sen. Olson  
00:53:23 Sen. Gillan  
00:54:03 John Ostlund, (MACo)

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:54:32 Sen. Gillan

**Discussion:**

00:56:40 Sen. Augare  
00:56:46 Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
00:57:05 Sen. Buttrey  
00:57:35 Leanne Kurtz, (LSD)  
00:58:10 Vice Chair Wittich  
00:58:52 Chairman Sonju

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 248**

00:59:15     **Motion:** Sen. Olson moved that **SB 248 DO PASS.**

00:59:49     **Motion:** Sen. Gallus moved that **SB 248 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT(los30a03)**

**Discussion:**

01:01:21     Sen. Buttrey  
01:01:43     Sen. Gallus  
01:02:20     Leanne Kurtz, (LSD)  
01:02:51     Sen. Gallus  
01:02:57     Vice Chair Wittich

01:03:12     **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

01:03:24     **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Olson moved that **SB 248 DO PASS AS AMENDED.** Motion  
carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

**Discussion:**

01:03:59     Chairman Sonju  
01:04:16     Brianna Randall, representing the Clark Fork Coalition  
**EXHIBIT(los30a04)**  
Submitted by Brianna Randall representing the Clark Fork Coalition referring to  
SB 191 heard in committee on 1/31/2011  
01:05:28     Chairman Sonju

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment:  
01:05:54

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Kirk Lundby, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([los30aad.pdf](#))**