



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, TAXATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013

Call to Order:

Chair Douglas Cole called the meeting of the Finance, Taxation, and Economic Development Committee to order at 11:22 a.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Cole and committee members Amstutz, Asher, Davidson, Mills, and Peterson in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the September 12, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Presentations and Discussion:

Chair Cole recognized Paul Toth, president and chief executive officer of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, who presented on the history of the port authority, emphasizing particularly its place in Ohio history. Mr. Toth described the port authority's powers as a public entity and explained its role in economic development. He said his agency experiences challenges with the constitution concerning public-private partnerships because the constitution prohibits these partnerships. He advocated for the committee to consider allowing limited investment in corporations within the constitution.

Questions were asked regarding the Port Authority's ability to tax and what other states are doing to address this issue. Mr. Toth stated that Ohio has a competitive advantage over other states in finding creative means for funding, and that no other state does this.

The committee also heard from Lisa Patt-McDaniel, director of community development for the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing. Ms. Patt-McDaniel stated three issues that the committee could address: 1) the ability of the state to have maximum flexibility in financing; 2) permission for local government to make loans for economic development purposes; and 3) multiple local government jurisdictions. Both presenters provided an overview of Article VIII, specifically Sections 4, 6, and 13. Questions were asked throughout the presentation.

Chair Cole asked the committee how it wanted to proceed. Committee member Jo Anne Davidson suggested the committee receive research on the 1851 debate on this issue to see if that conversation may be germane to issues being discussed today. The committee also looked to Senior Policy Advisor Steven H. Steinglass for input.

Chair Cole suggested the committee look for more specific issues to discuss, such as opponents to the idea of expanding state flexibility in financing. Committee member Herb Asher suggested obtaining a copy of a report on Enterprise Universities from the Ohio Board of Regents.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the November 14, 2013 meeting of the Finance, Taxation, and Economic Development Committee were approved at the March 13, 2014 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Douglas R. Cole
Douglas R. Cole, Chair

/s/ Karla L. Bell
Karla L. Bell, Vice-chair