

IAC Legislative Committee

November 10, 2020 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Zoom Meeting](#)

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair Baldwin called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The following committee members were present:

Chair: Justin Baldwin, Gooding Assessor
Vice Chair: Donna Peterson, Payette Treasurer
IACA: Brad Wills, Twin Falls Assessor
IACC: Doug Zenner, Nez Perce Commissioner
IACRC: Carrie Bird, Clearwater Clerk
IACT: Annette Dygert, Owyhee Treasurer

District 1: Dan Dinning, Boundary Commissioner
District 3: Phil McGrane, Ada Clerk
District 4: Don Hall, Twin Falls Commissioner
District 5: Craig Rowland, Bingham Sheriff
District 6: Brent Mendenhall, Madison Commissioner

The following guests were present:

Seth Grigg, IAC
Sara Westbrook, IAC
Kristin Cundiff, IAC
Kelli Brassfield, IAC
Tim Hibbard, IAC
Tracie Lloyd, Canyon Treasurer

Dotti Owens, Ada Coroner
Angie Barkell, Owyhee Clerk
Tom Dale, Canyon Commissioner
Lorna Jorgensen, Ada Prosecutor's Office
Murphy Olmstead
Dakota Minke

Minutes Approval (Action Item)

Payette County Treasurer Donna Peterson moved to approve the October 21, 2020 meeting minutes. Boundary County Commissioner Dan Dinning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion Items

- Odyssey Fees
 - IAC has two items on its resolution this year to clean up the language for the Odyssey fee legislation. Those two items are to allow out-of-state cost of supervision fees and work detail fees to be collected via Odyssey. IAC is working to potentially fix these items non-legislatively, if possible.
- Join Imagine Idaho **ACTION ITEM**

- Imagine Idaho is a broadband coalition that seeks to make broadband a critical infrastructure. It has broad support from the Governor, Cities, Hospitals, etc.
- The goal is to push for the legislation at the state level this year so when the money comes in federally those grants will be ready to be used.

Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner moved to join the Imagine Idaho coalition. Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Property Taxes
 - The property tax study committee will have its final meeting next Thursday. IAC expects them to take action on a number of proposals. IAC has met regularly with a stakeholder group comprised of local government associations including cities, highway districts, schools, etc., to find a path forward for something IAC could support from the study committee. IAC plans to support and/or advocate for the following items:
 - Transparency. IAC is committed to work with the Controller's office to provide a uniform accounting and reporting system for all local government budgets so that information is available and easily accessible to the public.
 - Using the tax relief fund from online sales tax for property tax relief. That fund has the potential to grow to more than \$200 million.
 - Allowing impact fee authority for schools. This would allow schools to offset property taxes in growing areas.
 - A 5-year rolling average on property tax assessments.
 - If not transferring responsibility, securing state funding for things like public defense and district court services.
 - Repealing the county indigent program and using those dollars for property tax relief (assuming Medicaid expansion continues).
 - Increase and broaden eligibility for the circuit breaker program to provide tax relief for those that are low-income.
 - Reexamining county levies and levy caps, including, but not limited to, potentially consolidating the current expense, charity, and justice levies.
 - Chairman Rice said that his proposal of a 5% cap is non-negotiable. IAC has flagged the CPI-index as a major issue and may have room to negotiate on that front.
 - IAC proposed a question to the committee asking if the idea from last year of 3% plus new construction (up to 5%), or inflation + all of the new construction is still palatable to the committee as something IAC could advocate for as an alternative to other proposed legislation. The general consensus of the committee was that it is comfortable with that proposal, and it is preferable to Chairman Rice's proposal.
 - A potential sunset on the proposal was suggested and found preferable to the committee as a second option as long as no new legislative proposals occur during the sunset period.
- Unfunded Mandates
 - In the state of Washington, a number of years ago there was an initiative that put a budget cap on the state. As part of that initiative, the citizens didn't want the state to then put its responsibilities on to counties and see their property taxes increase. They therefore included language in the initiative that created a statute that prohibited the state from creating a new program, or expanding an existing program, that would increase costs to local government without also providing a means of funding that program. Last year, Washington counties sued the state over a state unfunded mandate and won.

- IAC proposes that the Association try to create a bill that would prohibit the state from mandating a program without a revenue source attached. IAC would ask that each county pass a resolution in support of unfunded mandate legislation. There is some interest, but IAC will need a lot of legislative support. Admittedly, this will likely ruffle a few feathers, but IAC needs to go on the offensive to protect property taxpayers from increases to their taxes due to unfunded services mandated by the state.

Payette County Treasurer Donna Peterson moved to adjourn the committee meeting at 11:18 am. Boundary County Commissioner Dan Dinning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

IAC Legislative Committee

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIR

Justin Baldwin
Gooding County Assessor

Brad Wills
LACA: Twin Falls Assessor

Tracie Lloyd
LACT: Canyon Treasurer

Lucky Bourn
ISACC: Minidoka Coroner

Tom Dale
District 3: Canyon Commissioner

Doug Zenner

LACC: Nez Perce Commissioner

Bryan Taylor
IPAA: Canyon Prosecutor

Dan Dinning
District 1: Boundary Commissioner

Don Hall
District 4: Twin Falls Commissioner

Brent Mendenhall
District 6: Madison Commissioner

VICE CHAIR

Donna Peterson
Payette County Treasurer

Carrie Bird
LACRC: Clearwater Clerk

Kieran Donahue
ISA: Canyon Sheriff

James Zehner
District 2: Idaho Assessor

Craig Rowland
District 5: Bingham Sheriff