

IAC Legislative Committee

December 15, 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
ISA: Kieran Donahue, Canyon Sheriff

District 1: Dan Dinning, Boundary
Commissioner
District 2: Justin McCleod, Lewis
Commissioner
District 3: Phil McGrane, Ada Clerk
District 4: Don Hall, Twin Falls Commissioner
District 5: Terrel Tovey, Bannock
Commissioner

The following guests were present:

Seth Grigg, IAC
Sara Westbrook, IAC
Kristin Cundiff, IAC
Kelli Brassfield, IAC
Tim Hibbard, IAC
Dotti Owens, Ada Coroner

Angie Barkell, Owyhee Clerk
Sherry Maupin, Valley Commissioner
Chris Goetz, Clearwater Sheriff
Lorna Jorgensen, Ada Prosecutor's Office
Murphy Olmstead
Jessica Lewis

Minutes Approval (Action Item)

None.

Discussion Items

- Update on Transparency
 - IAC met with State Controller Brandon Woolf and his Chief of Staff Josh Whitworth, to discuss the potential implementation of the transparency legislation. There is potential with the Controller's Office and with legislators to make modifications to the transparency legislation to make it manageable for local governments.
 - The Controller's Office priorities are to make any transition as easy for locals as possible, and to ensure the State bears most of the cost of implementation.

- There is potential for a pilot program to test any potential bugs that might arise before full state implementation.
- **Unfunded Mandate Legislation ACTION ITEM**
 - IAC has been working closely with Commissioner Tovey on unfunded mandate legislation. Lorna Jorgenson also provided very useful comments on the legislation draft. The intent of the legislative proposal is to make it crystal clear in statute that legislature can't ask local governments to do things without also providing funding.
 - For example, the sheriff's office is only allowed to charge a \$5 administrative fee for licensing, but in reality it costs the sheriff's office closer to \$8 per license to cover the cost. If this legislation were in place, if the state were to mandate driver's licensing to the county, the state would need to provide funding to make up for that shortfall, otherwise the county would have standing to mount a legal challenge.
 - For the most part, the state is not providing sufficient revenues to keep counties whole given the mandated services counties are expected to provide. This means counties need to levy property taxes to fund those mandated services.
 - IAC is asking all county boards of county commissioners to pass a resolution in support of unfunded mandate legislation similar to the resolution the Bannock Board of County Commissioners passed.
 - Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane expressed apprehension over how this proposal would be received in the legislature. He is concerned that this will impact the ability to pass other legislation by angering legislators who believe the counties state gives the counties enough money.

Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall moved for approval of Legislative Committee asking the full IAC body to support the unfunded mandate legislation, as written. Payette County Treasurer Donna Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried with one objection (Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane).

- **Property Tax Discussion**
 - IAC has been working with AIC and the Idaho Highway District Association, strategizing how to proceed. The plan is to go on the offensive regarding property taxes.
 - Tapping into the online sales tax bucket is a major target. Re-indexing the homeowner exemption, and updated the Circuit Breaker exemption are other targets.
 - IAC is also working on a media campaign, specifically putting together some videos to educate the public and legislators.
 - IAC wants to stress that county officials are locally elected to do specific things. You are neighbors, brothers, sisters, local church members, and are the appropriate decision makers for policy that affects your communities. We are asking our county officials to provide some ten-second video clips of yourselves doing the work that highlights the services you provide.
 - IAC is also encouraging county officials to meet with their legislators and have an hour long "property tax 101" meeting with them.

Bannock County Commissioner Terrel Tovey moved to adjourn the committee meeting at 11:08 am Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner 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

Annette Dygert

LACT: Omybee Treasurer

Scott Carver

ISACC: Valley Coroner

Phil McGrane

District 3: Ada Clerk

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

Terrel Tovey

District 5: Bannock Commissioner