

IAC Legislative Committee

January 10, 2024 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm MST

700 W. Washington St. Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | *Chair Don Hall*

*Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner motions to approve November 2023 minutes, Annette Dygert seconded.
Motion passes, none opposed.*

Prioritize Resolutions (Action)

- **IGA-05** : Hospital Tax Exemption - Initial draft sent out for committee to review. Going to be negotiating for the next couple weeks. Staff met with the hospital association, and they were concerned about language in the draft. Two areas raised for most concern, 1) Language in G related to how funds can be used. 2) Language in E about finance, being treated differently compared to other non-profit organizations, and were concerned about how this may impact their ability to provide compensation for employees. General agreement on avoiding making them feel they are being 'micromanaged'. High level engagement in this particular legislature will be needed.
- **IGA-07** : Area of Impact Agreements - No language has yet been drafted, but will meet with stakeholders to discuss an area of impact bill. Builders association and association of cities will be met to help bring more information to it. Starting off where it was left last year.
- **Emergency Medical Services** : Figure out what the best path forward is and attempt to schedule with Dean Cameron. EMS day is coming up on Monday, January 22, 2024. Lincoln Auditorium in the afternoon, 3:30-4:30. Inviting anyone who is supportive of EMS. Are there any other options for where EMS should be moved? Some opposition to OEM managing EMS. Conversation needs to be held with the governor's office in order to change.
- **JPS-04** : Working with lobbyist for Sheriff's association to increase the 911 fee from \$1 to \$3, to at least sustain emergency communication systems. Trying to figure out costs, how much is received from the \$1 fee vs the \$3 fee. Gathering stories where service is disrupted and other information. Mentions that particular counties cannot upgrade their systems and technology, and wonders how this would play into counties' ability to upgrade computer systems from outdated analog systems. This would definitely help get everyone on the same systems and improve communication. Concern with the \$3 fee and expense of dispatch equipment. Possible need to 1) increase the fee and 2) move it to regionalization. Mentions of people needing to change their billing address in order to move the surcharge fee to the county they are in. The problem seems to be

when you are on paperless billing and autopay. They likely don't think to change that. Some sheriff's departments push back against regionalization. Centralizing has its benefits, but also introduces challenges.

- **PL-02** : Large scale solar and wind energy sighting projects. Prior to sighting, the developer would be required to obtain a permit from the county. There are steep penalties that will likely need discussion with stakeholders. County commissioners have the final say, but this is to help supplement county say in the development on federal and state lands. Some staff would like to see less state regulation. Federal and private land abroad, and that the focus is on federal lands. Counties have been very limited to this point in mitigating these developments. Concern about the relationship between federal and county governments in relation to locations of these projects. PL-02 could potentially be broadened to things outside of solar and wind, but the purpose is to narrow in on wind and solar energy. General interest in the broadening of resource management plans. Some would like to see it as more of a "toe in the doorway" to show the capabilities of it, and help supplement future resource management plans. A resource management plan is in place about resource goals and counties will have a chance to weigh in on it.

Updates

- **Public Defense/Child Protection:** Had conversations with the Department of Health and Welfare and with the Court, and will continue those conversations. There are three potential options out there on continuum.
 - 1) Oppose, counties continue with responsibility.
 - 2) Alternative, IAC advocating for, stating that the 'state has to fund it' essentially.
 - 3) Last option includes floating federal funds paying up to half of the costs associated with child protective cases. Leverage that money to pay for half expenses, but where does the other half of expenses come up? Shared between state and county? Just state or just county?

Mentions that leveraging some of the federal money to pay for half is worth exploring. Part of the conversation includes looking at the structure of the CAT board. Its importance in the legislative committee is emphasized (though not technically listed as a priority).

- **Tire Recycling Facilities:** It can be removed from our list. Company decided they aren't moving forward with legislation this year.
- **HB-292 Cleanup:** Discussions to adjust dates to provide more time that might make it easier to calculate tax relief. Governor proposed additional \$125 million to school facilities. Adjustments to mechanics of that bill are possible. Questions about if counties were able to get bills out on time. All counties except two were able to get bills out on time.
- **Homeowners Exemption:** Continuing conversation from last year. A bill that would help clarify things and there is interest in running it again during this session.
- **Vape Tax:** Taking a different tact., and instead looking at the enforcement side of it for the youth. Interested in tightening up the criminal code on selling Vapes to minors. Vape Tax to get implemented and some agreement around seeing the cost of the user to be commensurate with tobacco. Committee wanted to see the Vape Tax more in line with the Cigarette Tax, and would also like to see this get implemented. Mentions that more data will be available to make better decisions based on the health of youth due to utilization of vape products and that the focus of using data to implement a more informed Vape Tax for next year.

- **Rangeland Grant Program:** Money passing through county's that ranchers can use for rangeland improvement. Rep. Raymond has been getting feedback that the money isn't being used by ranchers and that money isn't enough for a full project. Pool money together from counties for a grant system to create enough money for a project. Mentions that rangeland programs go through federal services and emphasizes his desire to maintain local control around the money and doesn't want a state-run system. Money goes to grazing districts.
- **Ag-land Preservation Farm Bureau:** Farm Bureau wanted to advance legislation that would allow a farmer to opt into an ag-land preservation district. Allow the owner of Ag-land to preserve that land for agriculture use and it would remain as such for 20 years. If a farmer wants to opt-out, they can do so. Mentions that the county and local governments would no longer have imminent power over that land. There would be a 1% cap on property land increases of ag-land in the program, but it complicates tax issues and shifts the burden onto everybody else and introduces administrative challenges that need to be addressed and worked through with the Farm Bureau. A problem about designated land on farms that are used to house farm workers tends to be moved to residential land and could pose an issue with the identification of Ag-land. What makes land 'good ag-land ground', and places development pressure outside of those footprints and that communities should have a say in what is good ag-land ground. USDA has a definition about what makes good ag-land ground that will be settled on. It is a bit of a mine-field from a legislative standpoint that will create issues. Concern about requests for Ag-exemption which mentions hobby farms and raises disinterest in the implications it would create.

Open Discussion

- Five and ten lot subdivisions and the domestic wells issue. Discussions and a draft have been shopped with county commissioners on domestic wells in an effort to preserve domestic ground water. What constitutes a "subdivision" and other questions before this package is ready to go.
- Viable and non-viable priorities will be moved around as the legislative session continues throughout the year, just as years prior.
- Property tax relief on a local level if we promote bridges throughout the state (mentioned in Governor's address).
- Next week, in person meeting at IAC Washington building.

IAC Legislative Committee

MEMBERSHIP

*MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTED WERE IN ATTENDANCE

CHAIR Don Hall <i>Twin Falls Commissioner</i>		VICE CHAIR Tom Dailey <i>Ada Commissioner</i>	
Luke Omodt <i>District 1: Bonner Commissioner</i>	Mark Bair <i>District 5: Bingham Commissioner</i>	Annette Dygert <i>LACT: Owyhee Treasurer</i>	
Tom Lamar <i>District 2: Latah Commissioner</i>	Brent Mendenhall <i>District 6: Madison Commissioner</i>	Vic Pearson <i>IPAA: Franklin Prosecutor</i>	
Sherry Maupin <i>District 3: Valley Commissioner</i>	Hollie Ann Strang <i>IACA: Gem Assessor</i>	Kieran Donahue <i>ISA: Canyon Sheriff</i>	
Wayne Schenk <i>District 4: Minidoka Commissioner</i>	Doug Zenner <i>IACC: Nez Perce Commissioner</i>	Scott Carver <i>ISACC: Valley Coroner</i>	

	Kim Keeley <i>IACRC: Teton Clerk</i>	

ALTERNATES

Phil Lampert <i>District 1: Benewah Commissioner</i>	Donavan Harrington <i>District 5: Bingham Assessor</i>	Tracie Lloyd <i>IACT: Canyon Treasurer</i>
Justin McCleod <i>District 2: Lewis Commissioner</i>	Shayne Young <i>District 6: Jefferson Commissioner</i>	Vacant <i>IPAA:</i>
Zachary Brooks <i>District 3: Canyon Assessor</i>	Josh Dison <i>IACA: Elmore Assessor</i>	Andy Creech <i>ISA: Payette Sheriff</i>
Ben Crouch <i>District 4: Jerome Commissioner</i>	Angie Barkell <i>IACRC: Owyhee Clerk</i>	Pam Garlock <i>ISACC: Boise Coroner</i>

***More attendees listed below**

IAC Staff

- Seth Grigg
- Sara Westbrook
- Kelli Brassfield
- Gracee Gorrell
- Chase Christensen

Others

- Jeff Lavey
- Brad Wills
- Lorna Jorgensen
- Thomas Daley