

IAC Legislative Committee

January 24, 2024 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm MST
700 W. Washington St. Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | *Chair Don Hall*

Correction to the call to order for the meeting on Jan 17th, 2024; Vice Chair Tom Dailey called to order the Jan 17th meeting, not Chair Don Hall.

Brent Mendenhall motions to approve the Jan 17th minutes, with the corrections. Mark Bair seconds the motion. Motion passed.

Prioritize Resolutions

- **IGA-05:** Hospital exemption bill. Language has been updated, and a draft is going to be made before the meeting next week. Settled on something that is defensible in front of the legislature that doesn't put anything additional on the hospitals. Would require them to meet with county commissioners once a year to discuss their non-profit status and the community's hospital needs. Draft has been shared with the health and welfare committee and there was agreement to sponsor the draft.
- **IGA-07:** Area of impact agreements. Meeting with Senator Lakey. Discussion of various legislators working on competing proposals and will update during the next meeting on this.
- **EMS:** Emergency Medical Services. The EMS meeting had a good turnout for a Monday afternoon. Did a 101 commissioners presentation and made it clear that funding needed to be included. About two dozen legislators in the room appreciated the presentation and took new information from it. County reports that EMS task-force had planners and met with EMS agencies, county commissioners and released those reports and at EMS day, those reports were put in various binders so legislators could take a binder that applied to them and their location in Idaho. You can find the reports online at the IAC newsletter in the legislation bulletin (link to all the reports are in there).
- **JPS-04:** 911 Fee. Last week, the slip was signed by Rep. Wheeler. Keeping language as simple as possible, and going with just the fee increase and going on a CPI index (\$1 to \$3). Draft is done. Getting a fiscal note done is an important next step. Still working on finding a sponsor. On the Senate side, there seems to be interest, but not sure about the House side.

- **PL-02:** Energy sighting. Language has been simplified. Met with Idaho Power lobbyists and shared language with those individuals. Following up later today (Jan 24), and seems to be getting close. Draft hasn't been shared yet, but will be shared after meeting with Idaho Power again.

IAC Policies

- **Public Works Contractors Licenses:** No update currently. Still working on language updates that have been requested.
- **County Travel + Convention Tax:** Meeting with the majority leader. Not many fans of tax increases, but there is more support for giving that money to counties. Conversations to be continued there. A Boise State University Survey has found that supporting existing counties is favorable.
- **HO406 Fentanyl Mandatory Minimums:** Hearing was held yesterday in committee, and came out of committee without recommendation. It came out of committee to the floor, so contact legislators on and off committee and explain how important this policy is. There are enough co-sponsors (36) to pass it as long as that support remains. Concerns around the latter portion of the bill (drug-induced homicide section).

Updates

- **Public Defense/Child Protection:** Number of meetings with various stakeholders, including Courts, Governor's Office, and the Health and Welfare Department. One idea mentioned so public defender's office has been concerned about managing because of potential conflicts. Working on a framework where conflicts don't become an issue and commitment to finding a framework that is functional is a positive development. Meeting next week with stakeholders. Once the session is over, setting up a process by the judicial district to move forward and pick district public defenders. Another process that will require legislation, is creating a smooth transition process for employees that will allow existing county employees to roll over accrued leave time and come into the state system with a high accrual rate.
- **HB292 Cleanup:** Some good conversations on this bill. Multiple chairmen have signed off on running the bill that contains adjustments that help to get tax information organized and sent out much earlier, to help out County Treasurers.
- **H390 City and County Officer Investigations:** Not much new information.
Opposition last meeting against two particular items further down the page. Those oppositions have not been addressed yet, but a meeting will provide more information by Monday.

New Legislation

- **S1217 Vacated Road/Right of Way:** No movement as of now. Monitoring.
- **S1227 Patient Medical Rights Act:** Appears to be a personal bill. This bill aims to have locals, mainly public health districts, not have the ability to order individuals to remain in home, or businesses to close and not run advertisements for vaccines, medicines, etc. Focused more on public health districts, but potential to impact counties. Mentions about this bill being fallout from COVID-19. Meeting to be scheduled with the chairman of the Senate Health and Welfare committee, to ask questions and figure out if there is traction for this bill at all. This bill presents conflict within statutes and proposes danger to public health in general. Await for a meeting to get a better lay of the land and come back next week to have a well-rounded discussion.

- **HO392 Health Districts:** Don't think a position needs to be taken at this moment. No direct impact to counties. Changes in the first 3 lines of the bill and replaces the word "all" to "necessary and reasonable". Concern is what does "necessary and reasonable" mean.
- **HO396 Prohibition/Mask Mandates:** Bill states that no political subdivision or health district can implement a mask mandate. It also states that if there is a requirement, it must clarify it is a 'recommendation' and not mandatory.
- **RCB129 Vape Enforcement:** Draft was included in the Jan 24th Agenda. Focuses on enforcement (if a person sells or distributes vape products to a minor, then the punishment is equal to as if they were selling alcohol to a minor).
Owyhee Treasurer Annette Dygert motions to support this legislation (RCB129 Vape Enforcement), Payette Sheriff Andy Creech seconds the motion. Motion passes to take a support position. Move to the updates section.
- **Domestic Water:** Bill language has not been shared yet, but hopefully will get language soon. Defining a resolution on the need is important (i.e. definition of subdivision, how this varies by county, etc.) Mentions that education on the cost of a well is important as well.
- **RS30848 County Option Electrical / Plumbing:** No new information as of now.

Monitoring

- **Ag-Land Preservation:** Some language updates. In an Ag-protection area, the assessed value remains locked in. Mentions that non-profitable/successful farms or ag-land may take advantage of this preservation and remain unfarmed. Mentions that there are convoluted tax implications in this bill. Continuing to have conversations regarding local Farm Bureau connections, as well as with local communities and farmers themselves to emphasize what this bill actually means.
- **Homeowners Exemption:** Good conversations this morning. Working on new language that would require that a homeowner's exemptions requires first and last name, date of birth, drivers license number, and their previous address to help verify individuals applying for homeowners exemption. Been working with Rep. Burns and realtors, and believe there to be a solution to address multiple homeowners exemption issues at the same time. It would be by the day upon application prorated from that day forward to determine taxes (essentially prorating values based on time of ownership and then levy is applied to prorated share of value and apply homeowners exemption to prorated value that is eligible for exemption).

Open Discussion

- Received new language yesterday on grazing leases. Draft sent out at the beginning of this meeting. Language states that grazing leases to be for 49 years instead of 20 years. Plugging it into commercial properties also at 49 years, but don't want to have to do a public hearing to accomplish this. For other commercial properties, a public hearing is required if it is longer than 20 years, so an exception is made that grazing leases doesn't required for hearing. Questions on whether or not county commissioners have an opinion (influence vs. authority).
- New draft to be included on the meeting agenda next week. Ongoing litigation within Kootenai county over remittance of penalties and interests. The City of Rathdrum and the City of Post Falls are putting together a new draft they are circulating, but presents new pieces that introduce new problems. Applies to all districts.
- New draft sent out on short-term rentals. Mentions that a focus on this is important if/when it gains tractions. Forwarded to the legislative committee.

- Next week there should be some *economic development language*. Stakeholder group trying to provide additional economic development tools to reduce reliance on urban renewal. Pieces of the package are fairly sorted out. Financing mechanisms for a bond to be paid for energy efficient products placed on properties (tax increment would not be used in this instance). Another piece to be a new tool as a community improvement district but targeted for industrial and commercial development. Awaiting further pieces. Ready to be released at the end of this week, and should be included on agenda for Monday.
- Budget setting process will be very in focus next week. Expect to hear a lot of this from media and legislators.

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>LACC: 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>LACT: 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

Chase Christensen

Others

Brian Stender

Lorna Jorgensen