

**DISTRICT III COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
April 1, 2026
10:00 A.M.
Gem County**

The District III County Elected Officials met this date in a regular meeting conducted in person, to act on the following items.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Angela Barkell called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The attendees recited the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION

Chairman Barkell gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

ADA County: Trent Tripple (Clerk)

ADAMS County: None

BOISE County: Alex Sosa (Prosecuting Attorney)

CANYON County: Brian Stender (Assessor)

ELMORE County: Josh Dison (Assessor), Amber Sloan (Treasurer)

GEM County: Hollie Ann Flansberg (Assessor), Leandra Roundtree (Clerk), Earl Defur (Commissioner), Mark Rekow (Commissioner), Megan Keene (Treasurer)

OWYHEE County: Angela Barkell (Clerk), Walt Holton (Commissioner)

PAYETTE County: Lindsey Bratcher (Clerk), Jennifer Riebe (Commissioner), Joan Howell (Treasurer)

VALLEY County: Sue Leeper (Assessor)

WASHINGTON County: Debbie Moxley-Potter (Assessor), Donna White (Clerk), Jim Harberd (Commissioner), Sabrina Young (Treasurer)

Chase Christensen and Clay Boeckel (Idaho Association of Counties) were in attendance.

- QUORUM PRESENT (9 of 10 Counties represented)

SWEARING IN OF NEW CHAIRMAN

Immediate Past Chairman Assessor Dixon gave the oath of office to Clerk Barkell

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

No amendments to the agenda motioned

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, January 28, 2026

The motion to approve was made by Assessor Dixon and seconded by Assessor Leeper, with unanimous support.

BANK REPORT:

No motion taken. Treasurer Howell stated that the bank account was unchanged from January with the current balance of \$4,630.88.

NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Barkell stated that according to our meeting schedule the next meeting will be held online on July 8, 2026. The following meeting will be in Owyhee County on October 14, 2026.

ACTION ITEM: Discuss and approve the IAC District 3 Bylaws

No motion taken. Vice Chairman Sosa had made some additional amendments in the Bylaws to eliminate reference to "Treasurer" since the bank account is handled by IAC. While going over the amendments some additional amendments were suggested by District 3 members. Vice Chairman Sosa will include these new amendments and present them at the July meeting for approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Idaho County Risk Management Program (ICRMP) Committee

The Board has several new members due to retirements and lost election, District 4's position may still be open. ICRMP has experienced some high losses but overall is in a better position this year than last. Law enforcement now has 2 high risk factors. Property value increases are more uniform now. Assessor Flansberg confirmed that commercial property values are going up, but land values have stabilized, and home sales have slowed.

ICRMP has negotiated with Lloyds of London for lower rates moving forward, they are trying to improve communications with members and have increased risk management training.

- Legislative Committee

The IAC had 5 priorities and were able to get one passed – Increase in jail fees paid by the State. Over the summer we will be working on the increases for 911 fees and to make sure when the State puts mandates on the counties that they recognize and pay the increased cost to the counties.

The legislation to allow guns in courthouse was stuck in the House, but it could come back next session. Canyon County is running a pilot program to post required publications on their website to show the legislators how it could work. There were a lot of land use bills presented, and highway funding was cut. Clay Boeckel, IAC, said that some

of the highway funding may come back next year. ITD will no longer require stickers on license plates, however, you will be required to have registrations in your car.

Schools used as polling places on election day, will be closed and they will have no liability while used as a polling place. Mosquito abatement bills failed, but expect them to be back next year. There are at least 10 people in Gem County that do not want spraying on private property and no aerial spraying at all. Prorating of the Homeowners exemption (HOE) was stopped.

We expect next year to have more bills on changes to the HOE and changing Solar/Wind/Nugs valuation and taxes and land use bills.

- Capital Crimes Committee - dissolved
- Gem Plan Committee

District 3 is unsure who the Gem Plan representative is.

Health insurance cost are still increasing. Ada County is self-insuring – the employees have no increase last year. Canyon County is not on Gem Plan, they have a HAS or offer the same plan as previous years. Both had an increase in deductible.

- IAC Committee

Mostly working on legislation since last meeting. The annual board meeting is coming up at the end of April. They are working on updating the Strategic Plan and may include risk management in the update. Coming soon will be COI training which is a good way to work on networking and updates on legislation.

IAC REPRESENTATIVES AND OPEN DISCUSSION:

- **Valley County**

They have lots of exemptions 602a, b, & c – they are done online this year with no reminders give. Our trash is transferred to Payette County Clay Peak landfill. The Valley County Clerk just resigned. The Prosecutor is taking the lead in making sure that organizations meet the requirements to have charitable exemptions.

- **Boise County**

The County finally hired an HR person so the Prosecutor's office no longer has to do it. Boise County has the oldest courthouse in the State.

- **Canyon County**

Commissioner Van Beek is not running this year and three people have filed. The Coroner has competition. They have a lot of PTR applications again this year. The budget process will be starting soon. The Sheriff's admin building will be done soon.

- **Elmore County**

The County is moving forward with the new building next to the building the Assessor and Treasurer are in. The Commissioners, Prosecutor and Sheriff will stay at the existing courthouse. The County is experiencing a lot of growth. Under development is a subdivision for 2200 homes plus an industrial park. The private landfill owned by Republic is open and receiving trash. They are still planning on developing a Casino

near Mountain Home – the land and building will be exempt from taxes – so no impact on County but will impact the Sheriff and Fire/EMS.

- **Gem County**

The County has lots of land use questions – they need parking and a new building. Estimates are 1.4 million dollars to renovate the courthouse. They use transfer stations to collect trash, it goes to Payette County, hauled by Republic. Two of the Commissioners have someone running against them.

- **Owyhee County**

Lots of energy production. A new solar project, 70-80 acres. New Wind project north of Hammett, 1,200 acres of windmills. New geothermal project underway. Mines are open, they bus workers from Canyon County and Jordan valley, OR.

- **Payette County**

The County jail bond failed with only 55% of the vote, needed 67%. Planning on running it again in November 2026. The Ambulance District plans on running a permanent levy in May. We are using the ARPA funds to build a new EMS building. Starting in June our Driver's License and DMV will become a hybrid department with the Sheriff taking over DMV from the Assessor. We have some big trials coming up over the next couple of years. Our landfill is filling up faster than anticipated – rates will be increasing for counties that transport trash to our landfill. We have been approached regarding hydrogen drilling – Canyon County already has a well.

- **Washington County**

The County EMS is running an override levy in May. In north Washington County/south Adams County they are mining copper. Our roads are taking a toll because of the decorative rock hauling to Ada County. Several of our Republican Committeemen have contested races in May.

- **Ada County**

Interest on investments is going down. A lot of our trash is hauled to Elmore County by Republic. Federal order – election ballots can only be mailed to registered voters. In November may see on the ballot a question to allow medical marijuana. Using the rest of the ARPA fund on parks.

Lunch break with the attendees eating with their affiliates in a round table discussion.

Thanks for lunch Gem County!

AFFILIATE REPORTS:

- **Assessors**

Exemptions

Public seems to think we are not transparent and/or honest

- Clerks
 - Personnel issues – attracting and retaining good employees
 - Budgeting issues with less State money
- Commissioners
 - Anxiety with jail expansions
 - Highway/Road & bridge upkeep
- Coroners – none present
- Treasurers
 - Kilowatt hour versus property value
 - Statewide tax software
 - Need to hold new Treasurer training after November election
- Sheriffs – none present
- Prosecuting Attorneys
 - Partnering with others to share information
 - Child pornography cases

GEM COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION:

They gave a power point presentation to show their partnership with Emmett businesses to create a walking space for people to come to the historic downtown to eat, shop and enjoy entertainment. They showed plans to renovate the area between Wells Fargo Bank and the railroad tracks to include vendor spaces, skating ring, entertainment stage and more. Along with the locals they are hoping to bring in people from surrounding counties to enjoy a family friendly atmosphere. Parking seems to be one of the biggest challenges, one solution is to have parking outside of the city with shuttle buses going back & forth. They want to create hiking trails in the foothills around Emmett and upgrades to the sports complex. The funding will come from grants, loans and donations.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Barkell adjourned the meeting at 2:06 P.M.