

**Regular Meeting Minutes
IAC District 5 Meeting**

**Bannock County Courthouse
624 E. Center Street, room 212, Pocatello, Idaho
November 16, 2023**

Attendees:

Bannock
Ernie Moser
Jason Dixon
Jeff Hough
Torey Danner
Kristi Davenport

Bear Lake
Rex Payne
Wynn Olsen

Bingham County
Eric Jackson
Mark Bair
Whitney Manwaring
Donavan Harrington

Caribou County
Jill Stoor
Aaron Cook

Oneida County
Kathleen Atkinson

Power
Mark Rose
Delane Anderson

Other
Rep. Rick Cheatum
Rep. Dan Garner
Senator James Ruchti
Senator Jim Guthrie
Rep. Dustin Manwaring
Renee Richardson
Corey Mangum
David Martinez
Shanda Crystal

Business -

- 1. Call to order/welcome:** Commissioner Jeff Hough
Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Commissioner Ernie Moser
Roll Call: Taken by Kristi Davenport
- 2. Presentation of the minutes:** the July 27, 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed. A note was made that the time and location from the previous minutes needed to be changed to today's date and location. A motion to approve minutes with the change was made and carried.
- 3. Presentation of the Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Jeff Hough presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve the report was made and carried.
- 4. Shanda Crystal, Chief Procurement Officer – Bannock County:** offered a presentation pertaining to procurement. She highlighted a Reverse Vendor Fair that she had recently attended. She made a lot of connections with vendors. She is excited about the opportunities there are for connections with other counties and requested that the elected officials in attendance reach out to their procurement departments and have them touch base with Shanda in order to make connections and share knowledge pertaining to procurement.
- 5. Dave Martinez, Public Defender – Bannock County:** Mr. Martinez made the group aware that Erik Frederickson had been chosen to be the Idaho State Public Defender. Counties will still be responsible to maintain Conflict Public Defenders through 2029. A discussion ensued that child protection actions and terminations will not be part of the new office. This came as a surprise to all in attendance. It was mentioned how time consuming and lengthy child protection cases are. Senator Ruchti mentioned how complex that piece of legislation is; he doesn't remember hearing about

the CP issue. Dave Martinez let all in attendance know that he is available, by phone, to answer questions as needed. He is meeting with the contract public defenders to talk about the upcoming State changes. The conversation of spaces available for conflict public defenders came up. Office space that is provided now will have to continue being provided through 2029 as well.

6. Corey Mangum, Washington Federal: Mr. Mangum provided an update on the economic forecast as it pertains to Southeast Idaho. There is a 33 Trillion-dollar national debt. Idaho, being behind the tide, doesn't feel it yet. Idahoans seem to make adjustments in the process so that it doesn't hit them as hard as it does other parts of the nation. Building, be it homes or commercial, is something that is behind right now due to unemployment and interest rates. Jobs, overall, triple the unemployment rate; there are more jobs available than people to take the jobs. Housing prices are still up. Sales have slowed down quite a bit due to the high prices and interest rates. There is an economic crisis housing-wise. He thinks the interest rate will drop next spring.

7. Senator Ruchti, legislative updates: Senator Ruchti presented for Representative Manwaring who had to step out of the meeting. Manwaring is working on bills that pertain to Annexations of Areas of Impact, Workforce Housing and that Farm Bureau is looking into ag land protection legislation. For himself, Senator Ruchti believes that there will be a tax cut of some kind, vouchers, surplus of 400 million dollars; there is a challenge with the federal funds, how much of it is on-going or one-time monies. Donovan Harrington posed a question about revenues falling short this year. Last month's revenue was 39 million dollars short. There was a question about when we would see a tax cut. The Associated Taxpayers of Idaho conference in a few weeks will potentially have the governor previewing his State of the State and that may be when he announces a tax cut if there will be one. There have been tax cuts each of the past three years.

6. Renee Richardson – providing an update on behalf of Senator Risch: Renee spoke about the stop gap funding bill passed by both the House and Senate. The Senate sent it onto the President's desk. It is a continuing resolution. Senator Risch is not a fan of this as it is just kicking the can down the road with government funding. He will advocate for long-term funding solutions as he is very concerned about the nation's debt. He is an advocate of government fiscal responsibility. He is going to consider the funding bill presented by the President that would give monies to Israel, Ukraine and our southern border. Renee spoke of the Don't Do It project pertaining to wind turbines, etc., and the Support Local Gems Project. She also suggested that we visit risch.senate.gov as there are many resources out there for those having trouble with a federal agency.

7. Commissioner Mark Bair, IAC Legislative update: After annual meeting in September, there were 11 resolutions passed by the body. The committee is in charge of choosing 5 that should be a priority. 1. IGA05 – hospital property tax exemption. 2. IGA07 – Area of Impact Agreements. 3. JPS02 – essential emergency medical services. 4. JPS04- increase 911 fee. 5. PLO2 – large-scale solar and wind facilities. The legislative committee and IAC will lobby these 5 as a priority. The conversation arose about for-profit hospitals purchasing properties and attempting to acquire tax-exempt status for these properties. Kathleen Atkinson mentioned that if a hospital is making money, it should be paying taxes.

8. Elected Officials update:

- Representative Cheatum is going to present a bill that will help provide support for those that would need mental health support to EMS workers.
- Senator Guthrie relayed that the big issues coming up are going to be education choice, ESA accounts, water, women’s health care and navigating the political dynamics.
- Bingham County Assessor, Donavan Harrington, spoke to the fact that they are still struggling with getting the tax notices out in a timely fashion. Everyone is going to have to re-write new software because of the complexity of what the legislature asked the counties to do. He is concerned the tax notices will go out late; he may request the Board of Commissioners to wave the late fees as he doesn’t believe that the constituents will have enough time to pay the taxes before the deadline. Conversation ensued. There may be an additional cost associated with needing to reprogram the software.
- Bannock County Commissioner Ernie Moser brought up the overpass that is falling apart on I-15 in Inkom. Chunks of the overpass are falling off. It is due to be replaced in 2026, but the concern is that it won’t last that long. There will be a community meeting to see what can be done. He also brought up that the Southeast Idaho Behavioral Crisis Center is looking for a new Chairman for the Board. We have applications to take back to their elected officials to apply for the board.
- Torey Danner, Bannock County Coroner, brought up the Next of Kin project and the potential of a system through Drivers License or the DMV to update that information more often.

9. **Setting next meeting date** – The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 6:30 a.m. in room 420 B of the Centre on the Grove, Boise, Idaho. Breakfast will be served.

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.