



Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Annual Conference | Boise, ID | September 24, 2018

Boise Centre | Room 110-CD | 3:45 PM – 5:45 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Vice: Pauline Malone, Lewis Tr.
Ada: Dotti Owens, Cor.
Adams: Sherry Ward, Cl.
Bannock: Terrel Tovey, Com.
Bannock: Radene Barker, Tr.
Bear Lake: Tricia Poulsen, Tr.
Blaine: Larry Schoen, Com.
Bonneville: Penny Manning, Cl.
Canyon: Tracie Lloyd, Tr.
Clearwater: Carrie Bird, Cl.
Custer: Steve Smith, Com.
Fremont: Abbie Mace, Cl.
Fremont: Lee Miller, Com.
Fremont: J'Lene Cherry, Tr.
Gooding: Justin Baldwin, As.
Gooding: Helen Edwards, Com.

Jefferson: Colleen Poole, Cl.
Kootenai: Mike McDowell, As.
Latah: Patrick Vaughn, As.
Latah: Henrienne Westberg, Cl.
Lemhi: Jenny Rosin, As.
Lemhi: Mary Ann Heiser, Tr.
Minidoka: Laura Twiss, Tr.
Nez Perce: Barb Fry, Tr.
Payette: Sharon Worley, As.
Payette: Donna Peterson, Tr.
Power: Deanna Curry, Tr.
Twin Falls: Don Hall, Com.
Twin Falls: Becky Petersen, Tr.
Valley: Doug Miller, Cl.
Washington: Betty Thomas, Cl.

Members Absent:

Chair: Mary Lou Hansen, Teton Cl.
Ada: Bob McQuade, As.
Ada: Vicky McIntyre, Tr.
Bannock: Jared Stein, As.
Bannock: Ken Bullock, Com.
Bear Lake: Vaughn Rasmussen, Com.
Boise: Dan Blocksom, Pr. Att.
Boise: Jim Kaczmarek, Sh.
Boundary: Sue Larson, Tr.

Clark: Pamela Barrett, Cl.
Lincoln: Linda Jones, As.
Madison: Sherry Arnold, Tr.
Payette: Betty Dressen, Cl.
Teton: Cindy Riegel, Com.
Twin Falls: Becky Petersen, Tr.
Valley: Scott Carver, Cor.
Washington: Georgia Plischke, As.

Others Present:

Seth Grigg, IAC
Timothy Hibbard, IAC
Amanda Bartlett, OPE
Tony Grange, OPE
Ada: Jill Humble, Candidate
Bear Lake: Cindy Garner, Cl.
Bingham: Tanna Beal, Tr.
Bingham: Pam Eckhardt, Cl.
Canyon: Brian Stender, As.
Clearwater: Dawn Erlewine, Tr.
Clearwater: Chris Goetz, Sh.
Custer: Allicyn Latimer, Tr.
Kootenai: Rich Houser, As.

Latah: Dave McGraw, Com.
Lincoln: Brenda Farnworth, Cl.
Madison: Jon Weber, Com.
Nez Perce: Dan Anderson, As.
Power: Mary Annen, As.
Shoshone: John Hansen, Com.
Teton: Beverly Palm, Tr.
Twin Falls: Brad Wills, As.
Valley: Douglas Miller, Cl.
Washington: Donna Atwood, Cl.
Washington: Sabrina Young, Tr.

Call to order by Vice Chair Pauline Malone.

Introductions of members present.

A motion was raised to approve the minutes from the February meeting by Mary Ann Heiser and seconded by Mike McDowell. The motion carried.

Gary Houde gave a presentation on Personal Property Tax information.

A motion was raised to approve the Budget and Finance manual by Mary Ann Heiser and seconded by Barb Fry. The motion carried.

Vice Chair Pauline Malone read the resolution script.

Kirk Chandler spoke on Mail Ballot Election for March and August election dates (IG-01). When taxing districts hold bond and levy elections on dates in March and August, voter turnout is very low, thus allowing districts to pass bonds or levies with as little as 5% of the registered voters of the district voting. Holding elections with low voter turnout is also expensive for counties. Overall election costs could be reduced while increasing voter turnout if all elections were held in either May or November. **Proposed:** Move to a mail ballot election for the March and August consolidated election dates. There was discussion on if there would be a physical location, in addition for those to vote in person. It was proposed that language be added to add a polling place. It was pointed out that the 125 threshold would need be raised to move to an all-mail ballot. **A motion was raised to adopt resolution IGA-01 by Abbie Mace and seconded by Steve Smith. The motion carried.**

Tom Dale spoke on the resolution to establish a county project based local option tax. (IG-02). There is not enough sources of revenue to fund projects. This would provide another funding option to fund jails and court houses. Broad based tax, minimal effect on citizens. It might be an uphill battle, but this could save counties millions of Dollars in interest, and provide property tax relief. Tax would go away after project is done. It has been done before, but law sunset. Bond paid off early, and very few complaints. Clarification on how cities would react, and needed vote threshold. Rural community counties may not be supportive, because it would be an additional tax on them, but for no benefit. **Proposed:** Authorize counties the authority to implement a local option sales tax, up to a maximum of 1% for a specified period of time to address specific construction projects. Once the project is completed, the tax sunsets. **A motion was raised to adopt resolution IGA-02 by Tracie Lloyd and seconded by Don Hall. The motion carried.**

Pam Eckhardt spoke on Marriage Licenses, Certificates, and Records (IG-03). In 1988, the requirement for a medical examination for each applicant was removed from Idaho Code. The requirement for the county recorder to issue an education pamphlet on AIDS was added at this time. Applicants must certify that he or she has read the pamphlet by

filling out a form that is kept with the marriage license application. Thirty years ago AIDS had come to the forefront as an epidemic and the Centers for Disease Control laid the groundwork for a nationwide HIV and AIDS care system. The State of Idaho implemented this educational pamphlet in response to aggressive education on the subject. **Proposed:** I am proposing that Idaho Code 32-412A requiring the education pamphlet and risk assessment on AIDS currently being administered by the county recorder to all applicants for marriage licenses, be removed from the duties of the county recorder. **A motion was raised to adopt resolution IGA-03 by Henrienne Westberg and seconded by Colleen Poole. The motion carried.**

Henrienne Westburg spoke on Mail Ballot Threshold (IG-04). County clerks have the responsibility of conducting the federal, state, county and nearly every taxing district elections that are identified in Idaho Code. Currently counties are only able to designate a Mail Ballot Precinct if it has 125 or fewer registered voters. **Proposed:** Increase the number of registered electors within a precinct, with no more than 190 registered voters, to be designated as a mail ballot precinct. **A motion was raised to adopt resolution IGA-04 by Carrie Bird and seconded by Tricia Poulsen. The motion carried.**

Seth Grigg spoke on County Employment after Retirement (IG-06). County employee retirements result in the loss of considerable institutional knowledge. Some retirees would like to continue working for the county beyond PERSI retirement but are unable to do so without impacting their PERSI retirement benefits. Schools are allowed to hire teachers over the age of 60 having retired with PERSI benefits. This allows schools to fill needed positions with experienced teachers that wish to receive PERSI benefits while continue to work. Counties face similar challenges in filling critical positions due to retirements. Some retirees receiving PERSI benefits would like to return to work for the county but cannot because of PERSI eligibility requirements. **Proposed:** Amend Section 59-1356, Idaho Code, to allow counties to hire back county employees after they have retired and are receiving PERSI retirement benefits. A question was asked if cities be interested in joining? Grigg explains that it would be likely. Clarification was given on when and how PERSI works. **A motion was raised to adopt resolution IGA-06 by Helen Edwards and seconded by Larry Schoen. The motion carried.**

Seth Grigg spoke on Electronic Notices (IG-07). Newspapers are no longer an effective means of communication. Newspaper circulation numbers are very low. Counties have large bills from newspapers based on their many required legal notices. The current law states that a "newspaper of (or having) general circulation shall mean the newspaper with the largest paid circulation published within any county in which the governmental entity is located." I.C. §60-106. The circulation number should be quantified today since many newspapers reach less than 5% of the population. **Proposed:** to introduce legislation regarding notices no longer being required to be printed in newspapers. **A motion was raised to adopt resolution IGA-07 by Chris Goetz and seconded by Don Hall. The motion carried.**

Phil McGrane spoke on Flat Fee Recording, Adjustment to Idaho Code § 31-3205 (IG-05). Phil McGrane explains that it is for historical reasons why recording fees aren't flat, but history doesn't reflect where we are now with technology. Currently, Idaho Code § 31-3205 uses a predictable fee structure for select document types. In doing this, there is now some level of predictability of fees that lenders can disclose to borrowers. However, if a document is titled differently or miscoded, fees can differ from the disclosed amount. A growing trend within recording is flat fees. This model is currently used by four states, and they have reported that the recording process has been improved with this change. **Proposed:** All recordings would be 30 dollars per document. There would be no more debate about what the document types are. There was discussion on the current price of documents. **A motion was raised to adopt resolution IGA-05 by Penny Manning and seconded by Abbie Mace. The motion carried.**

Donna Peterson spoke on Updating Quarterly Reporting requirements (IG-08). Currently this code section requires the county treasurer to make a detailed report at every regular meeting of the board of county commissioners of his county of the moneys received, disbursements and the debts due and from the county. In discussing this with the treasurer's they make a quarterly report of all accounts and balances and show that they are in balance with the Clerks funds. The Treasurer's office does not generally "track" the indebtedness of the county or what debts are due to the county. This is more of a function of the Clerk's office. **Proposed:** Allow for treasurers to make a quarterly report to the board of county commissioners instead of at every regular meeting. **A motion was raised to adopt resolution IGA-08 by Tricia Poulsen and seconded by Barb Fry. The motion carried.**

Seth Grigg spoke on Commissioner's Relatives Employment (IG-11). The Shoshone County Sheriff's Department hired an employee that was not within the second degree to the Sheriff. The Sheriff was not related to this person and he was hired as a Deputy for the Department. A complaint was filed with the Attorney General on a matter the Commissioners had approved for all employees of the county, and the complaint triggered a nepotism charge against one of the Commissioners and the Sheriff, and resulted in the Deputy resigning his position. The deputy was the Commissioner's grandson. Idaho Code currently restricts rural counties from hiring the workforce they need. Rural counties do not have a large workforce and are having a difficult time hiring and keeping employees. **Proposed:** Allow counties to hire relatives of commissioners as long as they do not have direct control over them and state for the record they are related when considering any matter on the employee. There was debate on ethics and disagreement on nepotism issues. **There was no motion raised on IGA-11 and the motion died for the lack thereof.**

Vice Chair Pauline Malone organized the prioritizing of the resolutions. There was debate over the fairness of the local-option sales tax to rural counties. The Committees prioritization was as follows: **IG-01, IG-04, IG-05.**
The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.