

IAC Legislative Committee

February 12, 2020 | 10:00 am –12:00 pm

Conference Call 208-717-1950

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair Baldwin called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

The following committee members were present:

Chair: Justin Baldwin, Gooding Assessor
Vice Chair: Donna Peterson, Payette Treasurer
IACA: Brad Wills, Twin Falls Assessor
IACC: Doug Zenner, Nez Perce Commissioner
IACRC: Carrie Bird, Clearwater Clerk
IPAA: Bryan Taylor, Canyon Prosecutor
ISACC: Lucky Bourn, Minidoka Coroner

District 1: Dan Dinning, Boundary
Commissioner
District 2: James Zehner, Idaho Assessor
District 3: Tom Dale, Canyon Commissioner
District 4: Don Hall, Twin Falls Commissioner
District 6: Brent Mendenhall, Madison
Commissioner

The following guests were present:

Seth Grigg, IAC
Sara Westbrook, IAC
Kelli Brassfield, IAC
Kristin Cundiff, IAC
Angie Barkell, Owyhee Clerk

Chris Goetz, Clearwater Sheriff
Lorna Jorgensen, Ada Prosecutor's Office
Chris Yamamoto, Canyon Clerk
Vaughn Killeen, ISA
Annette Dygert, Owyhee Treasurer

Minutes Approval (Action Item)

Nez Perce County Commission Doug Zenner moved to approve the February 5, 2020 meeting minutes. Owyhee County Treasurer Annette Dygert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Legislative Priority Update

- [H0349](#) Marriage License Clarification | Sara Westbrook, Policy Director
 - House Bill 349 will not be moving forward. It will be held in committee.
- [H0430](#) Whistleblower Act | Sara Westbrook, Policy Director
 - This is scheduled and working for a different date because there are individuals that are unable to attend.
- [H0429](#) Public Defense | Seth Grigg, Executive Director

- House Bill 429 was introduced last week and it waiting for a hearing. There will be strong opposition from the PDC.
- [S1268](#) Write-in Deadline | Kelli Brassfield, Policy Analyst
 - Senate Bill 1268 had a hearing and was sent to the 14th order (amending order) on the Senate floor.
- [S1269](#) Security of Ballots | Kelli Brassfield, Policy Analyst
 - Senate Bill 1269 in on the Senate floor on the 3rd reading calendar.
- [S1306](#) Uncontested City Elections | Kelli Brassfield, Policy Analyst
 - Senate Bill 1306 had a full hearing in the Senate State Affairs committee this morning and was sent to the floor with a due pass recommendation.
- [H0463](#) Juvenile Pretrial Release/Odyssey Fees | Kelli Brassfield, Policy Analyst
 - House Bill 463 was printed in the House Judiciary and Rules committee last Friday afternoon. It is awaiting a full hearing to be expected in a week or so. The committee has many bills they have to get through.
- Clerk on Magistrate Commission | Kelli Brassfield, Policy Analyst
 - This proposal is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Judiciary and Rules committee this afternoon.

New Business

- [H0393](#) (Neutral) Consolidation of Election Dates | Sara Westbrook, Policy Director
 - House Bill 393 would consolidate the school bond/levy elections to the May and November elections. The clerks voted in 2/3 to support this bill. It would be less work for the clerks; however, the clerks are afraid of the affect this would have on school districts.
 - *Idaho County Assessor James Zebner moved to take a neutral position on House Bill 393. Payette County Treasurer Donna Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
- [H0413](#) (Oppose) City Council Election by District | Sara Westbrook, Policy Director
 - House Bill 413 requires council members to be elected by district if the city population is 100,000 or more. Candidates would have to be elected by their district just like legislative districts. It appears the logistics would be a nightmare. If the district boundaries are not aligned with precinct boundaries, this will create more ballot splits than there already is.
 - *Canyon County Commissioner Tom Dale moved to oppose House Bill 413. Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
- [H0439](#) (Monitoring) Online Public Notice | Sara Westbrook, Policy Director
 - Committee did not discuss this item.
- [H0441](#) (Support) Circuit Breaker for Veterans | Seth Grigg, Executive Director
 - Rep. Giddings is the sponsor for House Bill 441. This bill broadens the circuit breaker statute to include individuals with 100% services disability or that are 100% unemployable. There isn't a good tool or metric for understanding this or determining how an individual is 100% unemployable. It appears that an individual's percentage rating and income will be used.
 - *Payette County Treasurer Donna Peterson moved to support House Bill 441. Canyon County Commissioner Tom Dale seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
- [H0445](#) (Monitoring) Construction Manager at Risk | Seth Grigg, Executive Director
 - House Bill 445 allows for a construction manager if the contractor meets certain criteria. There is a construction company out of Utah that has a presence in Idaho and has been unable to meet the current criteria. Since they don't meet the criteria, they are working to amend the law so they would qualify. The contractors and engineers are opposed to the legislation. Recommendation to monitor.

- [H0446](#) (Monitoring) Quality Based Selection (QBS) | Seth Grigg, Executive Director
 - Currently if counties contract with an engineer, the selection of that contract has to be based on their qualifications. The same Utah company wants to use project cost instead of qualifications so they will qualify for more projects. Counties will still take cost into account but it will not be the ruling factor.
- [H0450](#) (Monitoring) Planning and Zoning Governing Boards | Seth Grigg, Executive Director
 - House Bill 450 allows for zoning amendments to go to the governing board but the governing board may send the amendment to the planning and zoning for recommendation. It could possibly create an easier process for applicants. There is concern that this will reduce the importance of the planning and zoning commissions and that P & Z is there for a reason. This could create problems with more applications going to the commissioner from people who think they can get their pet projects done.

Other Business

- Property Tax Relief | Seth Grigg, Executive Director
 - IAC was confident that there were enough votes to hold the bill but as time passes there is concern that it will make it out of the house. There was a lot of public testimony. Some of it was good and some of it was bad. There were others that had meaningful testimonies. AT this time IAC staff doesn't believe it will make it out of the Senate.
 - With the work that happened over the interim there is confidence that something will happen but not necessarily this freeze proposal. There are more proposals to come including one that would create an interim committee. Staff has asked for county seats on that interim committee.
 - Any proposals would roll into the interim committee there should be an extensive comprehensive package for the next session. The schools will also be involved in that discussion. Rep. Moyle wants to make the choice of taking the new construction or the 3% permanent and then go into an interim committee.
 - Rep. Ellis doesn't like this bill but was wondering about a freeze on the 3% and allowing the new construction. He believes this would be a possible start to this problem. His idea may address issues in the urban areas but not the rural areas.
 - The committee discussed how it is unfair to cap property tax when the legislature is looking to take revenue sharing for Medicaid expansion. IAC staff is exploring having a 4% cap for the those that don't have new construction and trying to get into better discussions around the online sales tax revenue fund.
 - It is important to recognize that counties are not going to be able to continue to budget how they always have. It is also important to continue to articulate that the taxes will not necessarily be going down with this proposal.
 - IAC staff has requested feedback as soon as possible from the committee and those they represent. It is time to mobilize and try to get a deal on the table that counties can live with. The committee discussed how they may be able to withstand the freeze but services will be diminished and the citizens won't understand.

Canyon County Commissioner Tom Dale moved to adjourn the committee meeting at 12:20 pm. Owyhee County Treasurer Annette Dygert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.
