

IAC Legislative Committee

March 4, 2020 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

700 Washington | Boise, ID | Main Conference Room

Call-in Number 208-717-1950

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair Baldwin called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The following committee members were present:

Chair: Justin Baldwin, Gooding Assessor
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 2: James Zehner, Idaho Assessor
District 3: Tom Dale, Canyon Commissioner
District 4: Don Hall, Twin Falls Commissioner
District 5: Craig Rowland, Bingham Sheriff

The following guests were present:

Seth Grigg, IAC
Sara Westbrook, IAC
Kelli Brassfield, IAC
Tim Hibbard, IAC
Annette Dygert, Owyhee Treasurer

Angie Barkell, Owyhee Clerk
Vaughn Killeen, ISA
Lorna Jorgensen, Ada Prosecutor's Office
Phil Lampert, Benewah Commissioner

Minutes Approval (Action Item)

Canyon County Commissioner Tom Dale moved to approve the February 26, 2020 meeting minutes. Idaho County Assessor James Zehner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IAC Initiated Legislation Update

- [H0429](#) Public Defense
 - Failed on the floor of the House. However, IAC has made a lot of progress on public defense this session. There is discussion on potential for state funds or a state take over for public defense and other justice related items.
- [H0430](#) Whistleblower Act
 - Heard in House Jud & Rules yesterday. There were several whistleblowers that gave testimony in opposition to the bill. Will be voted on this Thursday, March 5th.
- [H0463](#) Juvenile Pretrial Release/Odyssey Fees
 - Passed House floor. Waiting on hearing in Senate Jud & Rules.

- [S1268](#) Write-in Deadline, [S1269](#) Security of Ballots, and [S1306](#) Uncontested City Elections
 - On 3rd reading calendar in the House. May not get to them today, but should be voted on soon.
- [S1339](#) Clerk on Magistrate Commission
 - Headed to the Governor to be signed into law.

New Business

- [H0561](#) (Oppose) Property Assessment, Appeals
 - This bill is moving quickly. Is on its way to the Senate. This bill has a myriad of issues. 12 months is too long of a time frame. An appraisal that is 12 months old is not going to reflect current market value. this bill is probably unconstitutional. If any person can hire some random appraiser to set values for their home this completely undermines the duty of the Assessor as the sole individual in the county that can set values. This is something that the Idaho Supreme Court upheld in Bloomquist v. Board of County Commissioners. They upheld that the Legislature could not substitute another method for assessment. Appraisers are not certified to set taxable value for the State of Idaho.
 - *Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner moved to oppose on grounds of constitutionality House Bill 561. Canyon County Commissioner Tom Dale seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
- [H0562](#) (Oppose) Homestead Exemption Application Deadline
 - Passed out of committee on Monday. Removed deadline for the homeowner's exemption. We don't have a good estimate for what the fiscal impact would be. The realtors association estimate it to be as high as \$3 million for all taxing districts in Ada county. That would be a potential loss of \$750 thousand for Ada county. It is not clear whether or not this would allow individuals to go back more than a year to receive the exemption for taxes already paid. There is also debate regarding if there would be a prorate or not.
 - *Clearwater County Clerk Carrie Bird moved to oppose House Bill 562. Owyhee County Treasurer Annette Dygert seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
- [H0590](#) (Oppose) Property Tax Assessment
 - Held in committee this morning at the call of the chair.
 - *Canyon County Commissioner Tom Dale moved to oppose House Bill 590. Idaho County Assessor James Zebner seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
- [S1380](#) (Support) Government Liability, Defending Attorneys
 - This bill would protect public defenders from liability if sued.
 - *Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner moved to support Senate Bill 1380. Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

Other Business

- [H0489](#) Annexation
 - Prevents cities from annexation without consent of those to be annexed. Would affect services provided by counties. Could set a bad precedent that would reduce taxes for those being annexed. The bill needs to be amended.
- Medicaid Expansion
 - There is a new bill that replaces House Bill 533. Rep. Raybould is the sponsor. This bill would take away 33% of revenue sharing (rather than the original 22%). The committee did not take a position on the bill as it creates winners and losers for counties.
- [H0409](#) (Oppose) Property Tax Budget Freeze
 - This bill will likely be amended in the Senate. The most likely outcome would be a hard cap of 3.75% to 4%. (3% base budget growth plus 1% of new construction). It may lead to a conference committee. This would be unfavorable for counties.
- [H0518](#) (Monitoring) Property Tax Notices

- IAC met with Rep. Ricks. He told IAC that he is open to amending it to potentially adding a QR-code on the tax notice that would link to the information he wants on the notice.
- Some legislators have reached out to IAC to see how counties would feel if the Board of County Commissioners was given authority to raise/index the homeowner's exemption at the county level. It is unclear if this exemption would be paid for by the State or the County. This could lead to issues where taxing district cross county lines.

Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall moved to adjourn the committee meeting at 11:42 am. Canyon County Commissioner Tom Dale seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

IAC Legislative Committee

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIR

Justin Baldwin
Gooding County Assessor

Brad Wills

LACA: Twin Falls Assessor

Tracie Lloyd

LACT: Canyon Treasurer

Lucky Bourn

ISACC: Minidoka Coroner

Tom Dale

District 3: Canyon Commissioner

Doug Zenner

LACC: Nez Perce Commissioner

Bryan Taylor

IPAA: Canyon Prosecutor

Dan Dinning

District 1: Boundary Commissioner

Don Hall

District 4: Twin Falls Commissioner

Brent Mendenhall

District 6: Madison Commissioner

VICE CHAIR

Donna Peterson
Payette County Treasurer

Carrie Bird

LACRC: Clearwater Clerk

Kieran Donahue

ISA: Canyon Sheriff

James Zehner

District 2: Idaho Assessor

Craig Rowland

District 5: Bingham Sheriff