

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

February 4, 2021 | 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm MST

Zoom Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair McGrane called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Idaho County Commissioner Denis Duman made a motion to approve the September 2020 meeting minutes. Custer County Commissioner Steve Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Branch Legislative Session Update: Bobbi-Jo Muelman, Deputy Chief of Staff

Bobbi-Jo highlighted the Governor's priorities, Building Idaho's Future, a plan to use the surplus for reinvesting in strategic initiatives including roads and bridges projects, broadband, education including summer reading programs, public safety & capital construction projects. These are all supplementals that go through the JFAC committee and then go to both chambers for an up or down vote.

Long-term transportation plan is also a big focus for Governor Little. He's willing to put some general funds towards transportation but only if it's tied to user fees. Including 80 million that we would bond for that would allow us to bond for about 1.5 billion. This is similar to GARVEE which is almost out of funding.

There's been a lot of discussion on the balance of powers. COVID19 put elected officials in positions they never expected to see themselves in.

Phil McGrane asked, are there specific areas where the Governor is seeking support from the Counties? Bobbi Jo said the supplementals could really use some help from the Counties. They will also affect the locals.

Regarding property taxes, the Governor has been upfront about concerns regarding unintended consequences. He understands that growth is a real challenge for local communities and having tools to pay for that growth is important. He recognizes that it cannot be a one-size-fits all approach.

Don Hall asked about the governor's move to stage 3. Are these guidelines now? Bobbi-Jo said our cases have significantly been going down since first of January including hospitalizations. Since we met those metrics and

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with the vaccine, they felt strong that we've hit the point where we don't need the teeth in the order. They'll keep beating the drum for doing the right thing, but are feeling better and better about the path forward.

Legislative Discussion: Justin Baldwin

Justin shared that this legislative session has been unique in that it felt like it started as soon as the last session ended.

Three bills came out of the Property Tax & Expenditures Study Committee. One bill addresses transparency. Justin thinks that it may help us in the long run to be able to show the legislature what our budgets are like.

A second bill on capping fund balances has not been printed.

The third bill would cap budgets at 3 to 4%. Two versions of this bill have been published so far, but neither has had a hearing yet.

There is a theme of fighting for control in the state house including trying to take away more local control by the legislature.

Property Tax Update: Seth Grigg

Seth gave an update on property taxes. The transparency bill has legs. We think it will pass. We've been working with the sponsor to make it more palatable. We've been able to get some good changes made to it.

It's been pretty clear that the legislature won't go home until they have passed property tax bill. They want to institute a cap on the budgets but are unwilling to address the home valuation side.

The legislative committee has been working to identify an alternative to SB1048. We are looking at a 6% cap with an additional 3% foregone allowed.

Seth met with Senator Rice yesterday and talked to him about IAC's idea. Rice was not receptive.

The legislature seems to be particularly interested in eliminating or at least greatly restricting new construction.

SB1048 does carve out wind and solar because it is taxed differently.

The committee was invited to come to Boise next week to meet with their Senators about the property tax issues.

Kathy Ackerman asked, do we have some concrete messaging to convey to our Senators? Are their talking points we can use to talk with them? Seth suggested using the talking points that were sent with the legislative alert that went out about S1021. Consider sharing where could a county cut if they had to cut, so Senators will see what the effect of passing this legislation would be.

Amber Sloan asked for any news on PILT. Seth said that PILT was fully funded in December. SRS payments will probably go out in March, but that is the last fully funded SRS unless Congress reauthorizes.

Seth shared that we are working on other solutions including the homeowners exemption, but so far, chairs are unwilling to hear bills about the exemption.

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Doug Zenner asked about levy consolidation. Seth said it's a moving target. He's talked with Sen. Rice about it. County Commissioners are also mixed regarding what they prefer.

The legislature seems to have pivoted from going after the emergency powers to going after the health order. Governor seems to be a couple of steps ahead on this too. Seth thinks we'll see the legislature start to shift toward local authority.

Seth encouraged committee members to continue reaching out to legislators and to consider coming Boise next week to meet with legislators.

Don Hall moved to adjourn. Steve Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Chair McGrane adjourned the meeting at 3 pm.

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIR

Phil McGrane
Ada Clerk

VICE CHAIR

Denis Duman
Idaho Commissioner

Kendra Kenyon
Ada Commissioner

Tracie Lloyd
Canyon Treasurer

Henrienne Westberg
Latah Clerk

Dotti Owens
Ada Coroner

Joe Larsen
Cassia Clerk

Kathie LaFortune
Latah Commissioner

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Sherri Davies <i>Bannock Assessor</i>	Lura Baker <i>Custer Clerk</i>	Brenda Armstrong <i>Lemhi Clerk</i>
Jason Dixon <i>Bannock Clerk</i>	Wayne Butts <i>Custer Commissioner</i>	Linda Jones <i>Lincoln Assessor</i>
Terrel Tovey <i>Bannock Commissioner</i>	Steve Smith <i>Custer Commissioner</i>	Joann Rutler <i>Lincoln Commissioner</i>
Tricia Poulsen <i>Bear Lake Treasurer</i>	Josh Dison <i>Elmore Assessor</i>	Rebecca Wood <i>Lincoln Commissioner</i>
Donavan Harrington <i>Bingham Assessor</i>	Amber Sloan <i>Elmore Treasurer</i>	Brent Mendenhall <i>Madison Commissioner</i>
Mark Bair <i>Bingham Commissioner</i>	Doug Wallis <i>Franklin Assessor</i>	Dan Anderson <i>Nez Perce Assessor</i>
Jessica Lewis <i>Bingham Commissioner</i>	Camille Larsen <i>Franklin Clerk</i>	Patty Weeks <i>Nez Perce Clerk</i>
Tanna Beal <i>Bingham Treasurer</i>	Abbie Mace <i>Fremont Clerk</i>	Doug Zenner <i>Nez Perce Commissioner</i>
Jim Williams <i>Blaine Assessor</i>	Blair Dance <i>Fremont Commissioner</i>	Lon Colton <i>Oneida Clerk</i>
Michael Rosedale <i>Bonner Clerk</i>	J'Lene Cherry <i>Fremont Treasurer</i>	Annette Dygert <i>Onyhee Clerk</i>
Penny Manning <i>Bonneville Clerk</i>	Justin Baldwin <i>Gooding Assessor</i>	Mark Harvey <i>Payette Assessor</i>
Glenda Poston <i>Boundary Clerk</i>	Denise Gill <i>Gooding Clerk</i>	Donna Peterson <i>Payette Treasurer</i>
Sue Larson <i>Boundary Treasurer</i>	Susan Bolton <i>Gooding Commissioner</i>	Sharee Sprague <i>Power Clerk</i>
Brian Stender <i>Canyon Assessor</i>	Tine Wines <i>Gooding Treasurer</i>	Deanna Curry <i>Power Treasurer</i>
Pam White <i>Canyon Commissioner</i>	Colleen Poole <i>Jefferson Clerk</i>	Jerry White <i>Shoshone Assessor</i>
Kim Keeley <i>Teton Clerk</i>	Sherry Maupin <i>Valley Commissioner</i>	Donna Atwood <i>Washington Clerk</i>
Bradford Wills <i>Twin Falls Assessor</i>	Scott Carver <i>Valley Coroner</i>	Sabrina Young <i>Washington Treasurer</i>
Don Hall <i>Twin Falls Commissioner</i>	Debbie Moxley-Potter <i>Washington Assessor</i>	

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