

IAC Legislative Committee

March 9, 2022 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

[ZOOM LINK](#)

MEETING MINUTES

The following committee members were present:

Chair: Justin Baldwin, Gooding Assessor
Vice Chair: Don Hall, Twin Falls Commissioner
IACA: Josh Dison, Elmore Falls Assessor
IACC: Doug Zenner, Nez Perce Commissioner
IACRC: Angie Barkell, Owyhee Clerk
IACT: Annette Dygert, Owyhee Treasurer
IPPA:
ISA:

ISACC: Scott Carver, Valley Coroner
District 1: Dan Dinning, Boundary Commissioner
District 2: Kathie LaFortune, Latah Commissioner
District 3: Phil McGrane, Ada Clerk
District 4: Wayne Shenk, Minidoka Commissioner
District 5: Terrel Tovey, Bannock Commissioner
District 6: Brent Mendenhall, Madison
Commissioner

The following guests were present:

Seth Grigg, IAC
Sara Westbrook, IAC
Kelli D Brassfield, IAC
Kim Keely, Teton Clerk
John David Davidson, Blaine Treasurer
Tom Lamar, Latah Commissioner

Dotti Owens, Ada Coroner
Sherry Maupin, Valley Commissioner
Brad Wills, Twin Falls Assessor
Lorna Jorgensen, Ada Prosecutor
Ammon Taylor, Ada Prosecutor

Call to Order | *Chair Justin Baldwin*

Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall made a motion to approve the minutes from March 2, 2022. Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner seconded. Add Wayne Schenk as attending and change Falls to County. Motion carried.

Update on IAC Priority Legislation

- [H0735](#) Public defense funding/Indigent Services (Rep. Moyle and Rep. Weber)
This bill was introduced last Friday and had a hearing in the House Revenue and Taxation committee yesterday morning. It was sent to the floor with a due pass recommendation. The House suspended rules for immediate consideration in the afternoon and passed the House with an almost unanimous vote. There was only one no vote. IAC staff is working on a trailer bill to correct some technical problems.

- [H0701](#) – Establishes workforce housing fund with sunset clause (Rep. Blanskma)
This has passed the House. It is waiting for a hearing in the Senate Commerce committee.

Update on IAC Affiliate Legislation

- [H0542](#): Court fees remittance date change
This bill was signed by the Governor on March 7th and is now law.
- [S1266](#): Coroner notification timelines, Cremation timelines
This bill had a hearing in the House Health and Welfare committee yesterday. It was sent to the House floor with a due pass recommendation.

Other Legislation Impacting Counties (Action)

- [H0565a](#) – Definitions of transient personal property (Rep. Moyle)
There were amendments made to keep Caribou County whole. They amended the definition to separate sellable minerals to those that come from a cobalt or phosphate mine.
- [H0635](#) – Area of city impact (Rep. Okuniewicz)
Some of the cities that are litigating reached out to staff. This allows a developer to choose which city they want to annex into. This is an issue for urban areas. Some cities may not be able to provide services that they commit to providing just to keep a developer. Some would like to see that developers are not able to choose because it could create problems with cities lines and with development plans. You could also see issues with elections. We don't need developers to muddy the water in the areas of city impact.

Madison County Commissioner Brent Mendenhall made a motion to oppose HB635. Latah County Commissioner Kathie LaFortune seconded. Motion carried.

- [H0741](#) – Owner-occupied property tax exemption replacement, sales tax (Sen. Jim Rice & Rep. Moyle)
Senator Rice is re-writing the bill. He stated that there are more changes that need to be made. Staff doesn't know what changes will be made. This proposal is unraveling. It is unknown if this will even make it out of the House Rev. and Tax committee. The potential alternative right now is to put the idea of sales tax increase on the ballot to see if the public would support this.

People have no idea what is really being proposed. The ballot idea is good as it will educate the public. It may be a good thing but there needs to be enough detail so they truly understand. The education on this issue is going to fall hard on county elected officials. Property tax isn't the true issue that the people are talking about. This issue is coming from a small subset of people. This could create big issues in the urban areas. It starts to erode what it means to be a city. It doesn't make sense to fund discretionary services from sales tax. Everyone is going to have to pay for enhanced services even if they don't want them.

What about schools? Schools are a big issue. The legislature has struggled on how to fund education. They boxed themselves in back in 2006. There is a big inequity. If you replace the funding for those that have passed a bond, you are punishing and creating inequity for those districts that were unable to pass a bond.

By reducing the tax for these large/expensive homes, what kind of growth are we inviting? We are inviting out of state growth that has money. It's going to make our rental market even harder and more expensive. It will further challenge the housing inventory.

The stabilization fund needs to be reviewed. It should probably have more funds in it.

The House circuit breaker bill will probably advance. The public defense funding bill will provide property tax relief. Rep. Monks have a proposal that should provide relief also. We will know more next week.

What about the homeowners' exemption clean-up? That bill has not been introduced yet. Staff doesn't see the chairman introducing it. He is ready to shut his committee down.

- [S1301](#) – Self-service storage assessment methods (Robert Anderst, Jeremy Pisca)
OPPOSED
The committee had a hearing last week and the bill was held for lack of a motion but then it just popped up on the agenda for today. The lobbyists have been working the committee to bring this back.
- [S1327](#) – Involuntary Commitments (Sen. Peter Riggs) **SUPPORT**
This bill will be heard in the House Health and Welfare committee tomorrow. Staff does not anticipate any issues. There are multiple co-sponsors.
- [S1362](#) – Delinquent property tax interest rate (Sen. Ricks)
This bill reduces the interest rate that counties can charge on delinquent property taxes from 12% to 6%. It also is retroactive to January 1, 2022, which is a problem. Sen. Ricks is aware of the problem of making this retroactive and is willing to send it back to the amending order to change the date. If someone paid the interest between January and now, they paid at the higher rate and they could then want a refund.

The interest is expensive to try to keep people from not paying for their taxes for three years and then taking the home back for the interest owed. While it says the intent is to help those struggling to pay property taxes, what it really does is to turn counties into banks that give lines of credit at lower rates and better terms than banks charge. It also encourages delinquencies and hurts the smaller taxing districts.

- [S1379](#) – Procurement services, personal property (Sen. Kelly Anthon)
Raises the threshold for procurement of personal property from \$50,000 to \$75,000. It is positive for locals as it gives flexibility. It doesn't apply to

Twin Falls County Commissioner Don Hall made a motion to support SB1379. Bannock County Commissioner Terrel seconded. Motion carried.

- Utility tax draft (attached)
This is a disagreement of assessment between utilities. They are in litigation. This would change the funding method by exempting the property and would pay on their gross receipts. 1.5% gross receipt tax that would be allocated to locals. There would be about a \$5M tax shift. They also have language that states they would pay less if there is a personal property tax exemption.

As personal property tax exemption amounts are increased, it is almost not worth the work. They are trying to play both sides. If they weren't looking at the personal property also it probably wouldn't be so bad. If you change this to gross receipts, where does it stop? I.e. railroads and others.

SB1283 – Supplemental Medicaid reimbursement for ground emergency medical transportation.

Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner made a motion to support SB1283. Madison County Commissioner Brent Mendenhall seconded. Motion carried.

HB640 – Broadband

We need to add in two words into the bill. The plan is to send it to the 14th order for amendment.

Support the university budgets as they spend considerable funds within the county.

Bannock County Commissioner Terrel Tovey made a motion to adjourn. Nez Perce County Commissioner Doug Zenner seconded. Motion carried.

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MEMBERSHIP

CHAIR

Justin Baldwin
Gooding Assessor

VICE CHAIR

Don Hall
Twin Falls Commissioner

Dan Dinning
District 1: Boundary Commissioner

Terrel Tovey
District 5: Bannock Commissioner

Annette Dygert
IAC: Owyhee Treasurer

Justin McLeod
District 2: Lewis Commissioner

Brent Mendenhall
District 6: Madison Commissioner

Vic Pearson
IPAA: Franklin Prosecutor

Phil McGrane
District 3: Ada Clerk

Josh Dison
IACA: Elmore Assessor

Kieran Donahue
ISA: Canyon Sheriff

Wayne Schenk
District 4: Minidoka Commissioner

Doug Zenner
IACC: Nez Perce Commissioner

Scott Carver
ISACC: Valley Coroner

Angie Barkell
IACRC: Owyhee Clerk

ALTERNATES

Phil Lampert
District 1: Benewah Commissioner

Jessica Lewis
District 5: Bingham Commissioner

John David Davidson
IAC: Blaine Treasurer

Kathie LaFortune
District 2: Latah Commissioner

Shayne Young
District 6: Jefferson Commissioner

IPAA:

Sherry Maupin
District 3: Valley Commissioner

Brad Wills
IACA: Twin Falls Assessor

ISA:

Ben Crouch
District 4: Jerome Commissioner

IACC:
Kim Keeley
IACRC: Teton Clerk

Dotti Owens
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