

5TH DISTRICT ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING
Meeting Minutes
Bingham County Commissioners' Chambers | November 12, 2020

Call to Order:

Chairman Manwaring called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2020.

Roll Call:

Present:

- Sara Westbrook – IAC
- Kelli Brassfield – IAC
- Kristin Cundiff- IAC
- Terrel Tovey – Bannock County Commissioner
- Jeff Hough-Bannock County Commissioner
- Ernie Moser – Bannock County Commissioner
- Steve Herzog - Bannock County Prosecuting Attorney
- Ely Taysom- Bannock County Coroner
- Scott Crowther- Bannock County Chief of Staff
- Delane Anderson- Power County Commissioner
- Jessica Lewis – Bingham County Commissioner
- Pam Eckhardt – Bingham County Clerk
- Julianne Young- Idaho Couse of Representatives- Bingham County
- Donovan Harrington- Bingham County Assessor
- Heber Dunford- Bear Lake Assessor
- Renee Richardson – U.S. Senator Risch
- Josh Sorensen- U.S Representative Simpson
- Bill Lasley- Power County Commissioner
- Tanna Beal – Bingham County Treasurer
- Whitney Manwaring – Bingham County Commissioner
- Lindsey Gluch- Bingham County Commission Clerk

Minutes:

The minutes of November 7, 2019 were presented. A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Moser to approve the minutes. The Motion passed by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report:

Tanna Beal presented the Treasurer's Report. There are no new changes except for the added \$15.00 reimbursement for the inactive account.

2011 was the last year dues were collected.

Balance: \$3,278.87

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

Topics for Discussion/New Business:

Legislation Update, Julianne Young

Julianne Young stated that there will be many things that will be different this session from typical sessions due to Covid-19 and things that need to be determined financially with the State post Covid-19. She is unaware of any particular legislation that directly impacts counties. She explained that she is open to hearing any concerns that anyone may have. She believes that property tax will continue to be something that people will be looking for a solution and she is sure that conversation will be ongoing regarding this matter.

Power County District 28

Commissioner Anderson of Power County stated that the tax issues with the legislation coming up, Senator Guthrie from their District, who has been addressing issues that Power County has. Commissioner Lasley stated that there are concerns in regards to the Public Defender and they are not happy with the rules, which could cause a concern that they could be faced with litigation.

Commissioner Tovey stated that he has held conversations regarding this matter and he has met with a few individuals who are going to push for the Public Defense District Court cost, horse trading for the Health District and Unfunded Mandate Legislation Act, similar to what passed in 1994. He stated that he would ask that all Counties meet to pass a Resolution in support because with property tax discussion, they mention cutting budgets.

Commissioner Manwaring stated that if there are issues, Bingham County schedules a meeting to meet with their State Representatives before session starts with their concerns.

Commissioner Moser stated since Covid-19 has progressed, they have held meetings with all Commissioner's every other Friday at 9:00 a.m., to keep in contact, which has been beneficial. They also hold a meeting on the opposite Friday with Elected Officials and Mayors within Bannock County.

Legislative Representative

Chairman Manwaring stated that the term for Legislative Representative is two (2) years. He stated that currently the Legislative Representative is Sheriff Craig Rowland from Bingham County. At this time, Chairman Manwaring entertained a Motion for Legislative Representative for the Fifth District. Commissioner Moser of Bannock County Motioned to appoint Commissioner Tovey of Bannock County. Commissioner Hough of Bannock County seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

At this time, Chairman Manwaring entertained a Motion to nominate an alternate Legislative Representative. Commissioner Moser of Bannock County moved to appoint Commissioner Delane Anderson of Power County. Commissioner Anderson respectfully declined this Motion as he does not feel that he can fulfill this position with the many other things he has going on. Therefore, Commissioner Tovey of Bannock County moved to appoint Commissioner Lewis of Bingham County for alternate Legislative Representative. Commissioner Anderson seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

Idaho Association of Counties Committee

Chairman Manwaring stated that currently the Representative for the Fifth District is Commissioner Bair of Bingham County and he has done a great job. Chairman Manwaring entertained a Motion to appoint a new IAC Committee Representative. Commissioner Tovey of

Bannock County motioned to appoint Commissioner Hough of Bannock County. Commissioner Lewis of Bingham County seconded. All voted in favor. None Opposed.

Nomination for Sydney Duncombe Award

Chairman Manwaring stated that Idaho Association of Counties sent out an email regarding the request for nomination's for the Sydney Duncombe Award. Commissioner Anderson of Power County explained that the Nominee should be an individual who has demonstrated excellence in County Government. He asked if anyone had a nominee in mind. Commissioner Anderson stated that he would like to nominate Sheriff Jeffries of Power County, who is retiring but he has done a phenomenal job and his career has been excellent. Commissioner Anderson read the requirements for the nominee. Commissioner Tovey of Bannock County stated that he if this is a nominee that Commissioner Anderson feels strongly about, than he is okay with the nomination. All were in support of the nominee from the Fifth District to be Sheriff Jeffries.

Assessors Discussion

Chairman Manwaring stated that Donovan Harrington is the new County Assessor for Bingham County. He would like Donovan to speak as to any updates or issues that he may see. Donovan Harrington stated that there have been many things going on within his office and tremendous growth within the State of Idaho and he is trying to keep everything in compliance with State Mandates. He stated that there are many challenges and it seems as though it is a moving target from the legislative point of view. Donovan stated that Motor Vehicles has been a train wreck and although they are not contacting Boise as often, the Idaho Transportation Department did not recognize the amount of overtime that the Assessors have had to put into this program. They still have not been able to close reports for last month due to the inability to balance numbers.

Heber Dunford, Bear Lake Assessor, stated that the Motor Vehicle Department with Idaho Transportation Department has been a challenge. As far as circuit breaker, homeowner's exemption and the shift from one tax class to another, they are shifting to commercial because they are granting more exemption. It is the Assessors job to figure out the market value in order for the tax burden to be distributed equally. The tax burden is a different story and has nothing to do with the Assessor, Clerk or the Commissioners.

CAT Board

Commissioner Lasley of Power County gave an update and stated that there was a meeting earlier this week and he would be requesting a supplemental, as they will be falling short to fund the balance of the year. He stated that the indigent cases that will be approved in January would be higher.

Commissioner Lasley explained that Roger Christensen would be stepping down from the CAT Board. He has been on the board for 18 years and he will be sorely missed. The Vice Chairman, Greg Johnson, will assume Rogers position until they have been a chance to vote and make any changes in the leadership.

Chairman Manwaring turned the time over to the staff from the Idaho Association of Counties to give them the opportunity to give comments or items for discussion.

Kelli Brassfield from the Idaho Association of Counties stated that she would like to discuss the Resolution that she is working on in regards to Odyssey fees. Last year there was a proposal to add Misdemeanor Probation fees and believed that all fees were covered. They later noticed that there were a couple of fees left out and were not included in the code section

and therefore, they are working to fix that error non legislatively through interstate compact agreement with other states for out of state cost for supervision. She has been working with Clerks in regards to the verbiage and research. They will continue to move forward in hopes of fixing the issue non-legislatively.

Sara Westbrook from the Idaho Association of Counties gave a quick update on transportation and stated that she is hopeful that they can get revenue enhancements this year based on revenues that are coming in and with the needs are, it will be on the radar and they will also continue to discuss broadband.

Kristin Cundiff from the Idaho Association of Counties stated that they are in the middle of Fall County Official Institute Training, with one occurring tomorrow in Pocatello. There are also trainings scheduled within the next few weeks both virtually and throughout other parts of the state.

Elections & Courts

Pam Eckhardt- Bingham County Clerk stated she attended the Clerks Telephone Conference this morning and they felt good about the elections and the work put into holding Primary Election, which was very difficult. She is unsure what will occur in March but the School Districts can put Election on in March. She believes that Blackfoot School District will propose a bond and that will be an active election. She gave a quick update on the Courts and stated that it has been a challenge. They have been working with the Supreme Court to find the right solutions to issues that may arise. Bingham County has currently started to use Criminal Mediation in order to solve cases before they move into Jury Trial.

Commissioner Tovey of Bannock County stated that Elections went fairly well but the mail in ballots were rough, which made an increase in cost for postage. Pam Eckhardt stated that the concern Bingham County has is that they had a large amount of individuals who had requested an absentee ballot but decided that they would like to vote in person. They had to go into the system and cancel the absentee ballot in order for that person to vote in person at the polling location. She is unsure what they will look like with the March Election. Commissioner Moser of Bannock County stated that this proves that we have great people in the Elections Office. It has been a challenging year and Idaho has stepped up to make the election happen.

Economic Development

Chairman Manwaring stated that he would like to discuss the Economic Development in Bannock County. Commissioner Moser stated the reason he requested that this discussion be added to the agenda is that all parties need to work together. There is a housing shortage and growth should be promoted.

Commissioner Hough of Bannock County stated that a couple of months prior, they let go of the Director of Bannock Development. At that time, the Board took a branding effort in order to look at things that needed to be done differently and because of his background, he made the proposal that to look at doing a regional organization to be more responsive for all Counties. He stated that they did hire a woman from Washington to fill the position of Director of Economic Development and she has a great background. Next week there will be a meeting with various counties to discuss the interest level or what it would look like as a regional effort in the South end of the state. Commissioner Hough stated that he agrees with Commissioner Moser and that Bingham, Power and Bannock are all aligned and need to be working together.

Pam Eckhardt asked Commissioner Hough the status of the Regional Economic Development for Eastern Idaho ("REDI"). Commissioner Hough stated that the new Director is trying to pick up the pieces that have been scattered. He stated Bingham County has agreed to stay in order to examine how the relationship between the parties. Again, he feels that Bingham,

Bannock and Power County have a lot more in common and can work together. Commissioner Hough stated that the meeting next week is an exploratory discussion but there is a positive win for all of us to work together.

Chairman Manwaring stated that a problem that Bingham County has noticed is that the jobs offered and money that will be earned, individuals cannot find houses that will meet what they want. He knows there have been many individuals that have turned down jobs for this reason.

Commissioner Hough stated that his hopes are that these meetings will assist in getting movement to get things done.

Commissioner Anderson stated that Idaho Association of Counties has draft legislation that have been reviewed with the Committee to address these issues and to make things equitable but also something that the growth can be sustained. He stated that within the Boise area, there have been many instances when people have come from states such as California with cash offers on homes. Commissioner Hough stated that work force is an issue everywhere and that will be part of the discussion is how it would be handled as a community.

Conclusion, End remarks

Chairman Manwaring asked if anyone had anything further for discussion. There was nothing further at this time.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting was scheduled on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in the Bannock County Commissioners Chambers.