

**FIFTH DISTRICT ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING**  
Meeting Minutes  
Bannock County Commissioners' Chambers | May 12, 2021

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Manwaring called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2021.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

Present:

- Terrel Tovey – Bannock County Commissioner
- Jeff Hough-Bannock County Commissioner
- Ernie Moser – Bannock County Commissioner
- Scott Crowther- Bannock County Chief of Staff
- Delane Anderson- Power County Commissioner
- Jessica Lewis – Bingham County Commissioner
- Renee Richardson – U.S. Senator Risch
- Carter Harrison- U.S Representative Simpson
- Farhana Hibbert- U.S Senator Mike Crapo
- Dustin Manwaring- State Representative- Dist. 29
- Randy Armstrong- State Representative- Dist. 28
- Jennifer Clark- Bannock County Treasurer
- Misty Katsilometes- Bannock County Chief Deputy Treasurer
- Scott Crowther- Bannock County Commissioner Chief of Staff
- Jason Dixon- Bannock County Clerk
- Tanna Beal – Bingham County Treasurer
- Whitney Manwaring – Bingham County Commissioner
- Lindsey Dalley- Bingham County Commission Clerk

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of November 12, 2020 were presented. A Motion was made by Commissioner Tovey and seconded by Commissioner Hough to approve the minutes. The Motion passed by acclamation.

**Treasurer Report:**

Tanna Beal presented the Treasurer's Report and stated there are no new changes. Dues have not been collected since 2011.

Balance: \$3,278.87

**Old Business:**

No old business was discussed.

## **Topics for Discussion/New Business:**

### Legislation Update:

#### District 28:

Randy Armstrong, State Representative for District 28, stated there have been many positive things happen. A few things are the largest tax decrease in the history of Idaho, the Governor's powers were defined which was a large issue. It was a good session and although there were a few negative things that occurred but all in all Idaho is in better shape after the session than what it was before.

Commissioner Anderson discussed House Bill 389, the Property Tax Bill, which has brought a lot of opposition and the Governor did sign as of yesterday. Mr. Armstrong stated he believes it was positive and does not believe it will have a huge impact. He stated he feels bad as the Counties would have to receive and field questions coming from the public.

Commissioner Anderson stated they have received a lot of backlash regarding the Circuit Breaker and what it will do to elderly and senior citizens.

#### District 28:

Dustin Manwaring, State Representative for District 29, explained great things came from this session. There are concerns with the Circuit Breaker in particular and that senior citizens are being priced out of their homes by raising the threshold. There was a tax cut with a maximum rate of 6.5%, which will make Idaho more competitive regionally and nationally. There will be a rebate coming for anyone that paid 2020 taxes and will get at least \$50.00 per tax payer or 9% of taxes paid in 2019. Next, the largest transportation bill in Idaho history was passed by increasing percentage of sales tax and 3.5% of sales tax will go to transportation with a minimum of \$80 million going to Idaho Transportation Department first. Anything excess of the \$80 million will be distributed out to the locals. The projection for year 2022 is \$6 Million for the locals and will go up as the sales tax fund grows.

Commissioner Moser stated he would like to discuss Indigent and Health Department. It seems as though there are unanswered questions. Commissioner Lewis explained that Bingham County has a great Indigent Director and most cases are non-citizens with an emergency. Representative Manwaring stated he would like to receive that feedback in order to address these issues.

Jason Dixon stated the Bannock County Indigent Budget is going to decrease by approximately \$120,000 this year and yet the health district will increase that budget by \$350,000. Representative Manwaring stated it would be beneficial to meet with Counties in order to receive input.

#### U.S. Senator Risch:

Renee Richardson stated that Senator Risch is on the Foreign Relations Committee and he has been busy. A Federal Back to Work Legislation was proposed in order to get people back to work. Businesses are struggling in hiring and are having to cut hours of business.

Commissioner Hough asked Ms. Richardson if she has an update on the Israel conflict. Ms. Richardson stated there are no major updates other than what has been released on the news and added it is critical not to do anything that will financially support the happenings.

#### U.S Senator Mike Crapo:

Farhana Hibbert stated Senator Crapo agreed to postpone Senate Bill 84, which is the military spouse licensing relief act and agreed to sponsor the Constitutional Concealed Carrying Porosity Act, along with a few other sponsorships he has agreed upon.

#### Legislative Representative:

Commissioner Tovey stated there are many things trying to be accomplished by counties such as Public Defense, which has been a large subject of discussion. He explained it was frustrating that property tax issues were worked on all summer long and many testified on the joint committee, wherein when 389 got to the floor, it was not what was agreed upon for months. Another major discussion was regarding consolidation of elections in one day, to which he explained is a concern. Clerk Dixon stated there is a large amount of citizens who attend early voting, sometimes exceeding a thousand citizens.

Commissioner Lewis added that Idaho Association of Counties tried to work with the legislature on the property tax matter to be sure all concerns were addressed.

#### Idaho Association of Counties Committee:

Commissioner Hough stated the IAC Summer Conference is coming up, wherein a Board Meeting will be held to receive more information.

Commissioner Lewis questioned Commissioner Hough if IAC would be hiring a firm or auditor to assist with federal funding. Commissioner Hough stated he has no updates on that matter.

#### Assessor Discussion:

Discussion was held in regards to the Department of Motor Vehicle Lines and Chairman Manwaring added that Bingham County is getting 45-50 individuals coming in for Idaho Drivers License each month and the lines are extremely long. Commissioner Anderson added that Power County has received a large amount of Bannock County Residents.

Chairman Manwaring stated the new program has caused citizens to have a longer waiting period, which has frustrated many people.

#### Economic Development:

Commissioner Hough stated there is a new Director who has been in Bannock County since November. She is doing a great job but there is not a lot of movement currently. There have been discussions with surrounding counties and there is a benefit to working together to move forward with economic development.

Commissioner Lewis stated the challenge is that cities and counties are different when it comes to economic development. When you try to put them together, it does not work properly as a county cannot offer the same services that a city can offer.

Commissioner Hough added that each county has something positive to bring to the table and it is important to work together.

Farhana Hibbert stated she has received many concerns in regards to the lack of affordable housing.

Chairman Manwaring agreed and stated there is no housing and therefore it is hard for companies to gain employees.

Election of District 5 Chairman & Vice Chairman:

Chairman Manwaring stated the election is held every two years.

Commissioner Ernie Moser motioned to appoint Commissioner Jeff Hough as the District 5 Chairman. Commissioner Delane Anderson motioned to appoint Commissioner Whitney Manwaring as District 5 Chairman. Six attendees were in favor of Commissioner Jeff Hough and three were in favor of Commissioner Manwaring. Commissioner Jeff Hough was appointed as the District 5 Chairman.

Commissioner Ernie Moser motioned to appoint Commissioner Delane Anderson as the District 5 Vice Chairman. Commissioner Lewis seconded. All voted in favor. Commissioner Anderson was appointed as the District 5 Vice Chairman.

Idaho Association of Counties Representative:

Chairman Manwaring stated, as Commissioner Jeff Hough is now the Chairman of District 5; he cannot continue his position as the Idaho Association of Counties Representative. Therefore, he requested a motion to appoint a new representative.

Commissioner Tovey moved to appoint Commissioner Jessica Lewis as the Idaho Association of Counties Representative. Commissioner Ernie Moser seconded. All voted in favor. Commissioner Jessica Lewis was appointed as the Idaho Association of Counties Representative.

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, November 18, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., location will be determined at a later date.