

**COMMISSIONERS' OPEN MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

In attendance: Commissioners Robert Geddes, Tom Katsilometes, and Richard Jackson; Valerie Dilley, Steve Fiscus, Dan John, Roxanne Lopez, Steve Miller, Robin O'Neill, Mark Poppler, Liz Rodosovich, Ted Spangler, Randy Tilley, Doreen Warren; Chelsea Kidney, Carl Olsson, Erick Shaner, Phil Skinner; Rod Brevig, Laurie Davies, Cheryl Flinn, Dave Wiedemann, Charles Winn.

Guests: Mayna Cejai, Eldon Hallock, Marni Odermann, Lacy Ryan, Chris Salvo, Rob Tucker.

Public Session.

Chairman Geddes, Chairman, convened the meeting. The Chairman noted he would chair the meeting in Commissioner David Langhorst's absence.

Presentation of Certificates of Service.

Roxanne Lopez acknowledged the employees that were receiving Certificates of Service and stated how much all of their work efforts were appreciated.

Roxanne, with the Commissioners, presented certificates to: Laurie Davies, Administrative Assistant (Tax Policy/Legal Operations) and Charles Winn, Financial Technician (Audit/Collections) for 10 years of service; Rodney Brevig, Tax Administration Forester/ Property Appraisal (Property Tax) for 25 years of service, with a thank-you letter from the Governor.

The certificates of service for the following absent recipients will be presented at a later time by their supervisors: Laura Turner, Tax Auditor 2 in the Tax Discovery Bureau (Audit/Collections), for 5 years of service; Robert Morken, Tax Technical Unit Supervisor, Central Processing (Revenue Operations) for 10 years of service; David Irwin, IT Systems Operator (IT) for 20 years of service, with a thank-you letter from the Governor.

Chairman Geddes thanked the recipients and noted how their years of service and efforts were commendable and appreciated.

Administrative Reports.

IT Development Status – Steve Miller.

Steve Miller noted there are currently three development staff vacancies, one is an IT resource manager and the other two are IT programmer analysts. Mike Teller, the new IT Manager, met with Commissioner Jackson last Friday. Mike has advised that he intends to interview for the IT resource manager position in early March.

The IT development section has received 69 new issue requests from users who needed software assistance. Twenty-six percent of the new items deal with GenTax Work Items. Priority setting required that 15 of the new items receive focus. Six of these items were completed and nine are in final user testing. A total of 88 issues were resolved during the past 30 days.

The processing of income tax returns for tax year 2011 is high priority and minor modifications have been necessary due to the changing environment of electronic filing.

The Windows 7 conversion for Temporary Seller Permits continues to be a problem. A backup solution for all users is in place.

Withholding pending payment issues handled by Fast are now in user test. There is a current backlog consisting of 164 items. Twenty-four percent of these are minor enhancements

with the balance standard maintenance requests. Fifty-five of the items are in final test and acceptance phases.

There were no more administrative reports.

Business Requiring Vote of the Commission.

Minutes.

Commissioner Katsilometes moved that the minutes of the Open Meetings held on December 7, 2011, and as amended on December 28, 2011, and the ISTC Annual Meeting on November 30, 2011, be approved. Commissioner Jackson seconded. All voted in the affirmative, and the minutes were approved.

Recess.

Chairman Geddes recessed the Public Session for 10 minutes to reconvene for other business and for the commissioners to meet with the Commission's legal counsel.

Reconvene Meeting.

Chairman Geddes reconvened the open meeting and introduced Liz Rodosovich, Public Information Officer.

Public Information Officer – Liz Rodosovich.

Liz noted that since the last open meeting, the Public Information Office (PIO) has been busy preparing for the tax season. PIO has updated their marketing plan, created a new Web page to list sites that offer free tax help, and are preparing a news release about the free sites. The list is organized by county. The feedback from the IRS—which oversees the tax help programs—is very positive. Today, a news release on the grocery credit is scheduled to go out. It will include information on what taxpayers with ITINs (Individual Tax Identification Numbers) have to do in order to get the grocery credit.

PIO updated the Quick Picks section of the website for the tax season, including links to 2011 income tax forms, free tax help for low income and elderly taxpayers, and free e-filing.

PIO also launched a new Web page for the Tax Commission's open meetings. Meeting agendas, minutes, and an information sheet that is helpful to first-time visitors to the Tax Commission can be accessed by clicking on the "Open Meetings" button on the home page.

Media inquiries are at a somewhat slower pace than the same period last year, with most of the inquiries being from the Idaho Statesman or the Idaho Business Review. The Business Review did an interview with Bill von Tagen about non-filers and took his picture for the print version of the story.

Liz added that February publicity efforts will focus on getting refund information out to the public and letting them know about the programmed phone and Web options available for refund inquiries. Next week, a bi-monthly meeting is scheduled with the IRS to talk about issues of mutual interest during tax drive.

Randy Tilley, Audit/Collections Division Administrator, noted that Taxpayer Services is receiving multiple calls regarding the 1099Gs forms and what to do with them. There is a lack of understanding on what the forms mean. He suggested that the agency publicize the form next year, to let taxpayers know what to expect in advance.

Chairman Geddes asked Dan John to address the questions and comments at the Legislature. Dan noted the various bills' status. The Chairman noted that the Tax Commission was having a high level of support during the legislative session and continued success with the agency's legislative package.

Commissioner Jackson noted the confirmation of his appointment as tax commissioner was scheduled for Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee.

Public Comments.

Marni Odermann, of SuperValu, noted a concern on the use tax legislation. Dan John explained that the bill was to clean up and to tighten the 90-day need to wait for exemption from the use tax.

Chairman Geddes and Liz had traveled last Friday to Murphy for the Governor's Capitol for a Day. Liz provided a summary of that meeting on the Tax Insider. The Chairman noted that it was in the agency's best interests to be represented at those meetings. The next one is in Fruitland, which Commissioner Jackson will attend. Field office managers can be asked to attend those meetings in remote counties, or assign one of their staff.

Commissioner Jackson asked the guests from SuperValu if an activity about local option taxes and proposed streamline sales tax is easier to do by store or point of sale, by county, municipality, or area. Chris Salvo and Marni from SuperValu noted it is not easy, but is already set up and being done in the state of Washington. Although the definition of streamline has made it easier, their concern is the other miscellaneous taxes. Discussion followed.

Chairman Geddes explained the Commission is trying at this time to improve sales tax and make it easier, while looking at where a local option sales tax can be extended. He added that the Tax Commission is an agency that gets requests to supply tax information for legislation proposals. The Chairman thanked the guests from SuperValu for participating and helping the Commission with their feedback.

There were no more public comments.

Other.

In Bill von Tagen's absence, Chelsea Kidney, Deputy Attorney General, presented This Day in History.

This Day in History, February 1:

1920 – First commercial armored car introduced in St. Paul, Minnesota.

1982 – "Late Night With David Letterman," debuts on NBC-TV.

1983 – USSR performs underground nuclear test.

#1 Song, February 1 hits

1959 – The Platters’ “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes.”

1964 – Beatles “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” first #1 hit, stays #1 for 7 weeks.

1967 – The Monkees’ “I’m a Believer.”

1984 – Culture Club’s “Karma Chameleon.”

Executive Session.

Commissioner Katsilometes moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the Commission meet in executive session with its legal counsel pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345(1)(f) to discuss the current status of litigation to which the Commission is a party. Commissioners Geddes, Katsilometes, and Jackson voted in favor by roll call. No matters requiring a vote of the Commission resulted from the executive session.

There being no further business, Chairman Geddes declared the Executive Session was ended and the meeting adjourned.

Valerie Dilley
Secretary

Robert L. Geddes
Chairman