MINUTES

HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE:	Wednesday, March 26, 2025
TIME:	1:30 P.M.
PLACE:	Room EW05
MEMBERS:	Chairman Ehardt, Vice Chairman Cornilles, Representatives Erickson, Skaug, Weber, Alfieri, Cheatum, Hawkins, Healey, Price, Cayler, Rasor, Wheeler, Berch, Church
ABSENT/ EXCUSED:	Representative(s) Skaug and Weber
GUESTS:	The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Ehardt called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

MOTION: **Rep. Church** made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 18, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Rasor** made a motion to approve the minutes for March 20, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 440: **Rep. Handy** presented **H 440**, which addresses compensation and benefits for local taxing district board members. Compensations are very broad between taxing districts, and are determined by the board members. Board members are not considered full-time employees, but there are instances in which individuals are receiving salaries and a variety of benefits. This legislation removes full-time benefits and compensation from board members, as well as requires any reimbursements be per diem. There is already a precedent of certain taxing district boards being restricted by statute from receiving benefits. This will address unnecessary spending by local taxing districts.

When answering questions, **Rep. Mickelsen** clarified special taxing districts can have little oversight, and has resulted in difficulty for local communities to know when meetings and elections are or where to locate their budgets. There are local taxing district boards which have been able to increase their budgets the maximum percentage each year, and with some having large funds go towards board operations. Although required to report their budgets to Transparent Idaho, several taxing boards had to be contacted due to the limited information they provided. In response to similar new legislation, certain water and irrigation districts are planning to address overcompensation through an interim committee. Many taxing districts are not required to have elections on one of the three dates currently in statute. **Reps. Handy** and Mickelsen intend to develop **H 440** further during the interim to better address this issue.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary