

Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Status Update
April 19, 2021
11:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Treasurer Steve Matheson, KCSO Captain Stuart Miller, Finance Director Dena Darrow and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Kootenai County Residents Les Wigen, Joe Alfieri, Pam Randle, Jeannette Delia, Christopher Nordstrom, Tana Wrublik, Summer Bushnell, Michael Lute, Josette Shultz, Chris Honomichl, Troy J. McCollum, Katie McCollum, Joe Moore, Russ McLain, Lynne Knapp, Marcie Elta, James Clayton, Jeannette Dillya, Charity Myser Randy Neal, Erin Barnard, Daniela Anderson, Jim Stafford, Marcy Olsen, Charity Myser, Dan Bell, William Le, Sandy White and Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Madison Hardy.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):

Chairman Fillios stated item number two on the agenda would be covered at the end of the meeting.

C. Business:

Lakeland School District Resource Officer (SRO) Position (Discussion)

KCSO Captain Stuart Miller reported that Lakeland School District was interested in having a School Resource Officer (SRO) at their location. He said that they were working through their budget process and wanted to enter into a contract with the County. He explained they had been offered a 70/30 cost split, but said they could afford only a 60/40 split.

Captain Miller stated that the Kootenai School District had a contract with KCSO for a SRO with a 70/30 cost split, with the 30% coming from the Vessel Account. He remarked that Finance Director Dena Darrow had advised him that she was not certain that the Vessel Account could provide that this year. He stated that a 70/30 split would end up at about \$67,000 to \$28,000 and a 60/40 split would be about \$57,000 to \$38,000.

Captain Miller explained that an SRO would be present at the school campus during school hours and the rest of the person's weekly hours would probably be spent as a Marine Deputy.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan expressed her concern that allowing a 60/40 split would be unfair to other school districts.

Captain Miller said that Kootenai School District had 70/30, Coeur d'Alene School District had a 50/50 split with the City of Hayden paying the other 50%. He indicated that other factors had some influence on the amount charged by KCSO, such as the distance the Deputy would have to drive. He confirmed that Lakeland currently had private security

on campus, but that provided much more limited services to the school and its students than would an SRO.

Chairman Fillios indicated he would support offering a 70/30 split.

Commissioner Duncan suggested this be brought forward during the budget season and the 30% come from General Fund, rather than the Vessel Fund. She asked that a 5-year projection be provided to the Board as well.

Commissioner Bill Brooks voiced agreement that the schools should be charged the same.

No motion was required at this time. It was generally agreed that this would be brought back to the Board at a later date.

Accounting for \$2 M CARES Act Reimbursement (Discussion)

Ms. Darrow reminded the Commissioners that the County had received a bit over \$4 million in 2020 of Federal funds to use for Coronavirus mitigation. She said the County had not used all of it, so the State decided to give the County the unused portion to defray law enforcement salaries.

Ms. Darrow stated that, at this time, it appeared that the Federal government accepted the State's actions. She explained, if that stance changed, the \$2 million might have to be returned to the Federal government. She predicted that the check from the State would be received this week and would be placed in Fund 11, the General Fund, marked as grant pass-through revenue. She said at the end of the fiscal year, it could be rolled into Fund Balance or they could keep it set aside for an additional year if the Board chose.

Ms. Darrow stated that they would keep the money separate and account for each project on which it was used, to create a very clear audit trail, in case there were any questions raised.

Impact Fees (Discussion)

Commissioner Duncan stated that she felt it was worthwhile for the County to look into impact fees. She admitted she did not have the time to pursue the issue right now, but asked if one of the other Commissioners would be interested.

Commissioner Brooks offered to take up the project.

Chairman Fillios said that he and Commissioner Duncan would turn over any helpful information they had accumulated to Commissioner Brooks to help him get started.

Pending Items Status Review – List Attached (Discussion)

County Form of Government Study Committee

Chairman Fillios remarked that this would be taken up at length later in the meeting.

Facilities Expansion

Commissioner Duncan reported that they were still waiting for the long range study to be completed.

PAC Airport Lease

Commissioner Duncan said there had been no further progress reported on this project.

1A/B Audio Upgrade

BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones said the work was tentatively scheduled to be done May 3, 2021 through May 7, 2021.

Financial Snapshot

This is provided on the first Commissioners' Status Update of the month.

Ballot Bond Language

Commissioner Duncan said this could not proceed until the Legislature completes its work this session.

Building Financing

Commissioner Duncan said this was also on hold until the Legislature completed its work.

State of the County 4/20/21

Chairman Fillios asked if everyone was ready to make their contributions tomorrow to the State of the County Address. The other Commissioners indicated they were prepared.

Optional Forms of Government Ad Hoc Committee/Study Commission Appointments (Action)

Chairman Fillios reminded those present that the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee had taken place last Tuesday and no agreement had been reached. He noted that Marc Eberlein had left the meeting due to a dispute and declined to participate further.

Commissioner Duncan suggested that they return to their original plan and each submit three names for membership on the nine member Study Commission. She said she had three names prepared to present.

Commissioner Brooks said he knew of a person who wanted to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee, Bob Fish, and would like that voted on before moving on to anything else.

Commissioner Duncan said she was willing to proceed in either direction. She added that she would nominate Richard Price for the Ad Hoc Committee, if they decided to continue along that line.

Commissioner Brooks stated he wanted a vote on the individual names before moving on to anything else. He said that, if they could not then agree on anything, they could return to what had been his original proposal, that each Commissioner submit three names. He pointed out that Commissioner Duncan had opposed that plan when he first suggested it.

Commissioner Duncan confirmed that Marc Eberlein had voiced support for each Commissioner presenting three names, because it had become apparent that there was no way to make up a completely unbiased study group.

Commissioner Brooks moved that the Board appoint Bob Fish to the Ad Hoc Committee. Chairman Fillios seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Nay

Chairman Fillios: Nay

The motion carried.

Chairman Fillios noted that he had no objection to Bob Fish, but he felt that returning to the format of each Commissioner choosing three members for the Study Commission was preferable.

It was generally agreed that each Commissioner would have three names ready to propose for the Study Commission by the next Status Update meeting.

Ms. Darrow exited the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

- D. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing.

Jim Stafford, Coeur d'Alene, suggested that the BOCC revisit the 150 foot wake zone on the Spokane River.

Chairman Fillios stated he would contact Mr. Stafford and they could discuss the issue further.

Summer Bushnell, Post Falls, asked for some additional explanation of Ms. Darrow's statement regarding the CARES Act Reimbursement and of the County Financial Snapshot from the List of Pending Items.

Commissioner Duncan explained the accounting process involved with the reimbursement and that the Financial Snapshot was an update on where the County was each month in regard to revenue and expenses. She noted it was normally provided by Ms. Darrow on the first Commissioners' Status Update meeting each month.

Ms. Bushnell also asked if the State of the County Address would be available on YouTube.

Ms. Jones said it would be on CDA TV, not YouTube.

Kootenai County Resident Les Wigen expressed his preference for County Workshops that would enable Commissioners to openly discuss County Business without being limited by Open Meeting Law.

Josette Shultz, Coeur d'Alene, stated that she would like to see a Board of County Commissioners with five members, to have the Clerk, Treasurer and Assessor become appointed positions and retain the Sheriff and Prosecutor as elected positions.

Commissioner Duncan noted that Elections were organized and supervised by the Clerk and suggested the Clerk, in particular, remain an Elected Official for that reason.

Ms. Shultz disagreed.

Sandy White, Hayden, said she was against proceeding with the Study Commission. She questioned whether the Study Commission Members would be held accountable in any way to the voters.

Chairman Fillios explained the broad outlines of the rules under which the Commission would operate.

Chris Nordstrom, Post Falls, asked what aspects of County Government could be changed by the Study Commission.

Chairman Fillios referred him to Title 31, Chapter 51 of State Code, which outlined all the duties of a Study Commission.

Dan Bell, Coeur d'Alene, asked if the BOCC could cancel the Study Commission now, before it got started.

Chairman Fillios said they could, but the Board did not intend to do so.

Tana Wrublik, Post Falls, asked why the Commissioners were pursuing this issue.

Chairman Fillios asked her to send an email to him and he would discuss it with her.

Randy Neal, Coeur d'Alene, said he was for smaller government and that having a Commission decide issues was cowardice on the part of the County Commissioners.

Kootenai County Resident Russ McLain compared Kootenai County Republican Central Committee President Brent Regan to Fidel Castro, former communist leader of Cuba.

Lynne Knapp, Coeur d'Alene, asked the BOCC to provide the public with a side by side comparison of each of the potential forms of government under discussion.

Marcie Elta, Coeur d'Alene, asked that the Board halt this Study Commission project now because the community had been too traumatized by the events of the past year to endure more upheavals.

Katie McCollum, Coeur d'Alene, stated that she felt the community did not want this Study Commission to proceed. She also asked for the Board to ensure that no one on the Study Commission could be appointed to any vacant positions in County government.

James Clayton, Coeur d'Alene, urged the Board not to copy forms seen in communist states like California and Washington. He asked them to stop the Study Commission project.

Jeannette Dillya, Coeur d'Alene, asked why this Study Commission was needed.

Commissioner Brooks remarked that this was not a question and answer session or a pep rally. He stated that Idaho State Law allowed counties to select between different forms of government. He said this could lead to Kootenai County developing a more efficient form of government that would cost the taxpayers less money. He urged that the conversation be allowed to take place.

Commissioner Duncan and Chairman Fillios urged anyone with questions rather than comments to send emails to them.

Kootenai County Resident Charity Myser asked who was responsible for creating ballot language. She also urged members of the community to do their own research on topics they want to discuss before coming to make comments at a public meeting.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
