

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Advisory Board Interview**  
**January 3, 2022**  
**1:00 p.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 was Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Planning & Zoning Commission Board Chair David Levine and Kootenai County Residents Bob Thornton and Deborah Rose. Mr. Levine and Ms. Rose were present via teleconference.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**Planning & Zoning Commission Applicant Interview: Bob Thornton (Discussion)**

Chairman Fillios explained that there were two current openings on the Planning & Zoning Commission and a third might occur. He stated that the BOCC planned to interview eight candidates for these and would deliver a decision after the final interview, later this week.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan: What skills and experience in group dynamics would you bring to the Planning Commission that would make you an effective Commissioner?

Kootenai County Resident Bob Thornton stated that he had been a volunteer fire fighter for about 15 years and was fire chief for 8 of those. In addition, he said he was currently part of the Search & Rescue unit.

Chairman Fillios: What do you see is the fundamental role of the Planning Commission?

Mr. Thornton said he would like to see some effort to control growth in the County and to update the infrastructure to supply the needs of the influx of new people.

Commissioner Bill Brooks: The ability to conduct research and report to the commission with a critical analysis and suggested course of action is vital. Can you provide an example that demonstrates this ability?

He explained that, as fire chief, he had to report to the Commissioners regularly. He also ran trainings for fires and in the use of equipment.

Commissioner Duncan: Planning Commissioners are obligated to represent the entire county rather than any particular geographic region or neighborhood area. Can you provide an example that demonstrates your ability to represent the welfare or well-being of the general public?

He commented that his position in Search & Rescue was of benefit to the whole County. He outlined his varied duties with that group.

Commissioner Brooks: An effective Planning Commission requires members from all walks of life to ensure that the entire community is well represented. Would you share why you believe your background or experience would be a helpful addition to the Commission?

Mr. Thornton said he had been a timber contractor for about 20 years, both residential and commercial.

Commissioner Duncan: Effective Planning Commissioners have certain common traits such as the ability to: express oneself clearly and concisely in public; listen to opposing views and still keep a clear focus on where the real public interest lies (objectivity); keep an open mind to new issues; define what's really at issue on any matter; take the long view; and assemble information and use it to make meaningful recommendations. Can you give us an example of a useful trait you would bring to the Commission?

He stated he interacted well with most people. He said he was also on the Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Committee, which required a great deal of interaction with different people all around the County. He commented that he avoided open conflict when it was counterproductive and was willing to listen and evaluate opposing points of view.

Chairman Fillios: Why are you applying for the Planning & Zoning Commission?

Mr. Thornton replied that he felt he had a contribution to make to that group; he had the skills to be of use to them.

In response to a question from Chairman Fillios, he said he had suggestions for ways in which the growth of the County could be properly addressed. He noted that he had lived here since 1980, but that this was the first place he had been that did not require impact fees for new development. He said he felt that issue should be addressed.

Commissioner Brooks: What are the biggest issues Kootenai County is facing?

He said the biggest challenge was growth; after that, it was the infrastructure needed to support the new population.

Commissioner Duncan: What are your thoughts regarding the balance between growth versus private property rights?

Mr. Thornton remarked that this was a difficult question for him because he had built his house in 1980 and now saw new developments approaching. He said there was one probably 2 miles from his location. He voiced his concern that the developments may not have been planned with enough attention to what stress they would place on local infrastructure.

Chairman Fillios: What are your thoughts on the time it currently takes for building permits to be approved? It used to be two to three weeks; now it is about 3 months.

He said there might be a way to speed up that process, but he did not know of one. He pointed out that a lot more permit requests were being received and Community Development was shorthanded, so a backlog was understandable.

Commissioner Brooks: Would you consider limiting the number of building permits issued?

Mr. Thornton replied that he would have to investigate that, but he felt that consideration should be taken whether a given permit would be harmful to the County. He said he might be willing to consider limiting the number of permits, temporarily.

Commissioner Duncan: What are your thoughts regarding preservation of open spaces in the community?

He said he supported the preservation of open spaces and was concerned about what was going on in the Prairie. He added that greenbelts were also important, so that children had places to get outside and exercise.

Chairman Fillios: Have you heard of Agenda 2021/2030?

Mr. Thornton said he was not familiar with these.

Commissioner Brooks: Have you served in the military?

He said he had been in the military for 22 years, active duty.

Chairman Fillios asked whether Mr. Thornton had any questions for the Board.

Mr. Thornton said he did not.

**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. There were no public comments.

**E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk