

**Minutes of Meeting
Sheriff's Office
January 4, 2022
1:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris, KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos, KCSO Captain Andy Deak, KCSO Patrol Deputy Brett Nelson, Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Kootenai County District Court Judge Rich Christensen, Finance Director Dena Darrow, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Kootenai County Residents Jim Stafford and William Le.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

KCSO Budget Expenditures for Extradition (Discussion)

KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris stated that KCSO had exhausted their extradition budget for FY22. He explained that this was due to an increase in associated costs, as well as a larger number of extraditions.

KCSO Captain Andy Deak said he had sent an email to the Commissioners a few days ago which reviewed the budget status for Program 511, Jail Overcrowding. He explained the Board set aside money each year for extraditions requested on behalf of the court or the Prosecutor, both in-state and nationwide. He stated that the \$5,000 extradition being performed today would exhaust the last of the allocated amount.

Captain Deak said an average cost would be about \$2,500 per case, depending on where a person was being picked up, but they had about five of them in the past month, totaling \$10,000 to \$12,000. He explained some of the upturn was COVID-related; but there were other causes as well. He noted that they had been asked to pick up both felony and misdemeanor prisoners well outside of KCSO jurisdiction.

In response to a question from Commissioner Leslie Duncan, Prosecutor Barry McHugh confirmed that an Executive Session was not required for this item.

Prosecutor McHugh reported that counties in neighboring states had been willing to hand off prisoners at the Idaho border in many cases, which had reduced the expense. He said this was no longer done, mostly due to COVID concerns.

Sheriff Norris commented that he would like judges to consider some ways to mitigate the costs, such as extradition for felony cases only. He suggested that a meeting of all stakeholders would be beneficial, but stressed that he did not want to encroach on judges' authority in their courts.

Kootenai County District Court Judge Rich Christensen commented that judges were able to set bond as they wished on their cases. He said that hinting about the current problem might be helpful, but the ultimate authority belonged to the judge in each case. He also suggested that Sheriff Norris ask to be included on the agenda for the monthly judges' meeting.

Sheriff Norris said that he had done so and was scheduled for the February meeting.

Commissioner Duncan asked whether a possible six month moratorium on misdemeanor extraditions could be raised.

Sheriff Norris said he would support such a moratorium, if it were offered. He noted that a reduction of extraditions would tend to help suppress COVID infection rates.

Captain Deak stated that KCSO had estimated they would need about \$31,000 to cover the remainder of FY22's needs in this area. He asked the Board to consider the formal request, which would be presented next week.

Commissioner Duncan said that they might want to wait until the fourth quarter, so they could see what the actual overage was, then the Board could cover it from Contingency Funds.

Captain Deak said that he would update the Board each month on the expense.

Commissioner Duncan remarked that, as District Court liaison to the BOCC, she would like to attend the judges' meeting as well.

Finance Director Dena Darrow briefly explained the mechanics of paying for these costs for the rest of the fiscal year.

It was generally agreed that the Board would proceed as discussed.

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 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk