

**Minutes of Meeting  
Commissioners' Status Update  
February 14, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan, Commissioner Bruce Mattare and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Finance Director Brandi Falcon, Staff Accountant – Grants Julina Hildreth, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**GTN Xpress Pipeline Project (CP22-2) (Discussion)**

Chair Duncan reported that the BOCC had been asked by a local senator to provide a letter in support for the GTN Xpress Pipeline Project.

Commissioner Bruce Mattare said that he had read the request and had spoken with someone at the State Capitol about it. He remarked that the states east and west of Idaho were not very supportive of fossil fuels, but that this pipeline was already in existence. He stated that the senator was looking for support for the expansion of its capacity.

All three Commissioners indicated that they would support the project. Chair Duncan said she would circulate a letter for signatures today.

**Kootenai Health Consent to Conversion – Kootenai County Board of Commissioners Contract – Transportation Services Agreement (Discussion)**

Chair Duncan stated that the Board had received a contract proposal for the transportation services agreement with Kootenai Health. She said that, in the process of Kootenai Health changing from a hospital district to a 501 (c)(3) all their contracts needed to be re-approved by their partners. She asked for the Commissioners' feelings about agreeing to the new contract. She indicated that she was not pleased with the way Kootenai Health had handled this changeover. She said she felt the process had lacked transparency and public input had not been invited. She said she would be inclined to see what the results would be if the BOCC declined to sign the contract. She added that she wanted to be sure there would be no negative impact for taxpayers.

Commissioner Mattare said he agreed that the hospital had not handled the process with enough transparency. He commented that the impression had been given that this needed to be done very quickly, when there seemed to be no clear reason for the rush.

Commissioner Brooks voiced his agreement.

Chair Duncan commented that the impression given by the hospital’s communications had seemed like, “We’re going to do this, but we don’t know yet what the ramifications are. We can’t answer your questions, but we are going to do it anyway.”

Chair Duncan said she would contact stakeholders and check what consequences might be if the County decided not to sign the contract.

There was general agreement.

**Grant Process (Discussion)**

Commissioner Mattare commented that he felt the grant process was something that should be used to reduce homeowner tax burden. He provided a draft mission statement and a chart illustrating operational flow for the Resource Management Office (RMO). He said he envisioned RMO as having an advisory and support role to the Board and the department heads. He also suggested initiating periodic audits of grants by RMO to ensure that the County remains in compliance with all requirements. He confirmed that he had spoken to RMO about his proposal.

Commissioner Mattare asked the Board to give input and direction.

Chair Duncan voiced her approval and offered some suggestions for how Commissioner Mattare might proceed.

- 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):** Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER LOCKE, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

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