

Minutes of Meeting
Optional Forms of Government Workshop
March 9, 2021
10:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Treasurer Steve Matheson, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiaramonte, KCSO Patrol Deputy Michael Douglass, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Coeur d’Alene Press Reporter Madison Hardy, Kootenai County Residents Amy McCanly, Erin Barnard, James Giraud, Nolan Wiley, Joe Archambaut, Charity Myser, Carla Mattare, Gail Arrotta, Dale Johnson, Jake Berringer, William Le, Doug Baliya and James Clayton. Mr. Berringer was present via teleconference.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action):**

Review and Finalize Draft Bylaws and Selection Process for Optional Forms of Government Commission.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan stated that the Commissioners had been receiving many emails from the public and welcomed their comments. She explained that today’s meeting was intended to be a workshop among the Commissioners and they would not be accepting live public comment. She asked that members of the audience refrain from displays of support or opposition during the discussions.

Chairman Fillios stressed that the neither the Study Commission nor Board of County Commissioners would be making final decisions on whether the County’s form of government would change. He said the Study Commission would develop a recommendation, which would be offered on a ballot for the voters to accept or reject. He added that there were a multitude of possible recommendations, including that the County retain its current system.

Commissioner Duncan stated that she had not received an outpouring of requests from the public to change the County form of government, so she did not feel that the study was necessary. She said that state statute also permitted the group, if formed, the right to develop and adopt its own organizational procedures. She remarked that she felt the BOCC was overstepping its bounds by presuming to create bylaws in advance for it.

Chairman Fillios acknowledged her point and suggested that they review the draft submitted by Commissioner Bill Brooks to bring it more into line with the relevant statutes.

Commissioner Duncan said she felt that the suggested study should not go forward and, if it did, that the only appropriate action for the Commissioners today would be to review the section of the bylaws related to the member selection process.

Commissioner Brooks indicated he was prepared to vote to approve the bylaws as they currently stood, but was willing to review them.

Chairman Fillios led the Board in a line-by-line examination of the bylaws and suggested items that could be removed or reworded. When the section about member selection was reached, it was suggested that, rather than each Commissioner selecting three members to serve, one member be taken from the Chambers of Commerce of Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Hayden and Rathdrum, one from the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee and one from the Democratic Central Committee. After further discussion it was agreed that the remaining three members be taken from local organizations: NIBCA (North Idaho Building Contractors Association), NWPOA (Northwest Property Owners Alliance) and one former County employee, who would be chosen from applications submitted to the BOCC.

It was generally agreed that the draft would be submitted for review to Legal, then returned to the BOCC for further action.

Commissioner Brooks moved that the Board submit the draft to Legal for review with the amendments the BOCC made today. Chairman Fillios seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Nay

Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

D. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
