

**Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Status Update
March 15, 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 KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris, KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos, KCSO Patrol Deputy Dale Johnson, Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Juvenile Probation Director Debra Nadeau, Probation Officer Supervisors Bryan Alexander and Gerald Martin, Juvenile Diversion Supervisor Douglas Hall, Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weeds/Snowgroomers Director Nick Snyder, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Maintenance Supervisor Tom Reed, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Kootenai County Fire & Rescue (KCFR) Fire Chief Chris Way, KCFR Board Members Casey Hamilton and Pam Houser, Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) District 1 & 2 Liaison Zlata Myr, Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Madison Hardy, Kootenai County Residents Barbara Bryan, Ken Van Voorhees, Laura Van Voorhees, Summer Bushnell, Erin Barnard, Julie Pond, Michael Pond, Random Opp, Jim King, Joe Hoffmurar, Joe Archambault, Mike Saturn, C. Schuyler Crane, Nolan Wiley, William Le, Sandy White, Chris Honomichl, M. Dianne Honomichl, John Padula, Greg Bauerle, Doug Balija, Charity Myser, Mike Bryan, Nancy King, Tom Torgerson and Rachele Ottosen. Mr. Braden and Ms. White were present via teleconference.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):

Chairman Fillios stated that item four from the agenda would be covered first. He said public comment would be accepted at the end of the meeting, time permitting.

C. Business (Discussion):

Second Amendment Ordinance

Commissioner Leslie Duncan stated that she had received many emails from constituents regarding Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinances passed in other areas of the County.

Commissioner Bill Brooks agreed that the proposal should be discussed and said he looked forward to hearing what the Sheriff had to say.

KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris announced that he did not intend to participate in any gun confiscation in Kootenai County. He said that there was already a state law that did not allow constitutional officers or peace officers to enforce federal gun laws. He indicated that he did not think passing a County Ordinance would be necessary or wise.

Prosecutor Barry McHugh exited the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Commissioner Brooks and Chairman Fillios declined to offer a second to a motion proposed by Commissioner Duncan to bring the Ordinance to a Business Meeting.

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden offered an explanation of the legal aspects of the proposal and his recommendations to the Board.

Kootenai Fire and Rescue (KCFR) Bond Presentation with KCFR Chief Chris Way

Kootenai County Fire and Rescue (KCFR) Fire Chief Chris Way announced that they were moving forward with a public safety bond to relocate two fire stations and add an additional station to their coverage area. He provided a slideshow covering the highlights of the plans. He explained that his district covered Post Falls, Dalton Gardens and some areas around the City of Coeur d'Alene. He pointed out that all their stations were within a mile or so of I-90 and that this did not allow for proper coverage of growth north and south.

Chief Way reported that Station 1 and Station 2 would remain as they were, but Station 3 would be moved to North East Post Falls, at Charleville and Prairie Avenue, and Station 4 would be moved to the North Idaho Fairgrounds. He said that a fifth station would be located on Seltice Way, at the KCFR Training Center Campus, to cover South East Post Falls. He stated that they also planned to open a new training facility and a new Auxiliary and Support Vehicle Storage facility on the KCFR Training Center Campus.

Chief Way stated that these changes would provide faster response times for emergency calls and better service to meet the needs of the growing community. He said the new training facility would allow them to improve preparation of staff and the Storage facility would allow them to acquire additional vehicles which could not otherwise be accommodated at the stations.

Chief Way offered details regarding the projected growth of the community, maps of the area KCFR currently served, and maps of the service area of the five stations, once all were completed. He provided pictures of the buildings and explained factors which affected fire station design.

Chief Way listed the costs of each item in the proposal, with an estimated total of \$14.9 million.

- Station 3 – \$3.8 million
- Station 4 - \$3.8 million
- Station 5 - \$3.75 million
- Outdoor Classroom - \$250,000
- KCFR Storage Building - \$650,000
- 100' Ladder Truck - \$1.2 million
- Facility Equipment - \$550,000
- Other Bond/Construction Cost - \$900,000

He also described the bond features:

- 10 year repayment term

- 1.23% interest rate
- Levy rate of \$24 per \$100,000 of taxable property value

Chief Way concluded with the information that the bond would be offered to the voters during the May 18, 2021 Election and that additional information could be found at kootenaifire.com (bond information) and at idahovotes.gov/yourpollingplace.

Juvenile Probation Yearly Report for District 1

Juvenile Probation Director Debra Nadeau introduced Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) District 1 & 2 Liaison Zlata Myr.

Ms. Myr provided a short slideshow and shared the data for juvenile arrests, probation, diversion, intake and state funding. She reviewed the numbers for community service hours completed, restitution paid and juveniles that reoffended within six months, twelve months and twenty-four months.

Kootenai County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Maintenance

KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos reminded the Board that the Sheriff's Office used to have its own maintenance department. He said that it was folded into the regular Buildings & Grounds (B&G) department six or seven years ago. He stated that this had caused safety concerns for both employees and inmates and that they would like to reverse the inclusion. He pointed out that this would entail a shift of six staff members and should be budget neutral.

Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Maintenance Supervisor Tom Reed indicated that they had made certain stipulations regarding the shift, but that both he and B&G Operations Manager Greg Manley did not object to it.

Commissioner Duncan suggested that the proposal be brought to a Business Meeting for Board approval.

Undersheriff Mattos exited the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

BOCC Liaison Assignments

Commissioner Duncan said that Panhandle Area Council (PAC) had changed their meeting times to a time that conflicted with Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board (HARSB) meetings. She asked if one of the other Commissioners could take on PAC.

Commissioner Brooks offered to take it on. Chairman Fillios said he would act as the alternate.

Commissioner Duncan said she would not mind being the alternate for the Basin Commission.

Pending Items Status Review – List Attached

County Form of Government Study Committee

Chairman Fillios said that he had redrafted the document after receiving some input from Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney R. David Ferguson. He said he forwarded the updated document back to Mr. Ferguson to review and would provide copies to the other Commissioners prior to the next meeting.

Facilities Expansion

Commissioner Duncan reminded those present that there would be a meeting to discuss this on March 17, 2021.

PAC Airport Lease

Commissioner Duncan reported that Airport Director Steven Kjergaard had received a proposal and was in the process of reviewing it.

1A/B Audio Upgrade

Commissioner Duncan stated that this item would appear on tomorrow's Business Meeting agenda.

Financial Snapshot

Commissioner Duncan reminded those present that the next Snapshot would be offered on April 5, 2021.

Ballot Bond Language

Commissioner Duncan remarked that the bond had been moved to the November 2021 Election. She reminded those present that she planned to hold a Town Hall Meeting on March 31, 2021 on the subject of the new building and its financing options.

Building Financing

Commissioner Duncan suggested that the County might be able to pay for the loan from returning URD (Urban Renewal District) funds. She explained that, in this case, a bond would have to be passed only to allow the County to incur debt; there would be no additional demand made on the taxpayers. She said she would strive to explain the situation to the public.

Chairman Fillios stated that he was going to extend the meeting to 12:15 p.m. to allow for public comment. He asked that people make their comments brief and to the point.

- 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.

Summer Bushnell, of Post Falls, stated that she felt Chairman Fillios and Commissioner Brooks were making a mistake in not supporting the request for Kootenai County to become a Second Amendment Sanctuary. She asked them to reconsider their positions.

C. Schuyler Crane presented a written statement to the Commissioners. He said that encouraging citizens to legally carry guns would reduce crime and also reduce law enforcement expenses.

Kootenai County Resident Mike Saturn voiced his agreement with Mr. Crane's points and his appreciation of Sheriff Norris's statement. He also said he favored an elected sheriff over an appointed one.

Random Opp from Coeur d'Alene also voiced his support for making Kootenai County a Second Amendment Sanctuary.

Charity Myser, from Hauser, reviewed the history behind the Second Amendment. She also discussed the concept of nullification, which had been referenced by Chairman Fillios and Commissioner Brooks. She further commented on the unconstitutional status of Executive Orders.

Rachelle Ottosen, from Rathdrum, stated that she was also in favor of declaring Kootenai County a Second Amendment Sanctuary and that she preferred and elected to an appointed sheriff.

Doug Balija, from Coeur d'Alene, asked the Board to place the Second Amendment Sanctuary request on a future agenda and for Chairman Fillios and Commissioner Brooks to reconsider their positions.

Lloyd Brunnin, from Coeur d'Alene, thanked Commissioner Duncan for placing the Second Amendment Ordinance on the meeting agenda. He also voiced his support for the ordinance.

Nancy King, from Coeur d'Alene, expressed her dissatisfaction with Commissioner Brooks' stance on the ordinance and the brevity with which it had been discussed in the formal portion of the meeting.

Kootenai County Resident Sandy White stated her support for the ordinance and that she would also like to see it placed on an agenda item for future discussion in the near future. She also said she did not support the Study Committee for Alternate Forms of Government.

Heather Behay, of Rathdrum, also stated her support for the Second Amendment Sanctuary ordinance.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
