

Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Status Update
March 22, 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 Captain Andy Deak, KCSO Patrol Deputy Alana Hunt, Public Defender Anne C. Taylor, Client Services/Investigations Administrator Jennifer Jeniquine, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Solid Waste (SW) Director John Phillips, SW Principal Planner Lauren Chaffin, Community Development Director David Callahan, Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze, Juvenile Detention Training Supervisor/ PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Coordinator Eric Sheffield, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney R. David Ferguson, 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 Erin Barnard, Les Wigen, Joe Alfieri and Sandy White. Ms. Bieze, Mr. Phillips and Ms. White were present via teleconference.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):

Chairman Fillios announced that item three on the agenda would be covered first and item one would be covered last.

No objections were voiced.

C. Business:

Budget Input Process (Action)

Chairman Fillios remarked that some department heads had expressed discomfort over the level of detail currently requested on their budget worksheets.

Finance Director Dena Darrow explained that they had received direction from the Board to include greater detail in budget worksheets. She said that BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe had created a tool to help groups examine their budgets more deeply, to assist the Board's deliberations. She stated that they had offered several training sessions on the new spreadsheet and worked individually with the different departments. She remarked that the spreadsheet functioned very well, but it was taking time for people to get used to it.

Ms. Darrow confirmed that departments could still use the old procedure instead, if they wished, so long as the Board agreed.

Ms. Plouffe stated that she was often asked for information by the Board which she was not able to easily supply due to a lack of sufficient detail included in some departments' budget documents.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan commented that departments with large operations sections would be less likely to be able to give details of what was in their maintenance budget because they did not know what would break over the course of a year. She acknowledged that they would have to accept that as unavoidable, and added that Contingency Funds existed for that reason.

Commissioner Duncan pointed out that the Capital Limit had been raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000, which would alter the appearance of "B" budget worksheets. She noted that a large one time purchase would increase a department's "B" budget for one year, but it would decrease substantially the next year.

Solid Waste (SW) Principal Planner Lauren Chaffin described the level of detail her department included in their budgets and how it helped their planning processes.

Commissioner Duncan stated that the County had not yet created a bonus policy, but the Board was trying to fund a pay increase for staff. She asked if the Commissioners wanted to ask departments to budget bonuses, with the understanding that they might be removed if pay increases were approved.

Commissioner Bill Brooks stated he did not favor bonuses, as a general rule.

Chairman Fillios said he had no problem budgeting for bonuses, but that it should be made clear that there was no commitment on providing them. He stated that the decisions made by the Legislature in the near future would significantly impact all aspects of the budget.

Commissioner Duncan said she would not approve any bonuses this year unless a bonus policy had been put into place.

It was generally agreed that departments could use the new spreadsheet or Logos this year, but that the added detail would be preferred.

Community Development Director David Callahan exited the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Fernan Lake Natural Area Hazard Fuel Treatment (Discussion)

Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze reviewed the two projects for Hazardous Fuel Treatment in the Fernan Lake Natural Area. She stated they had received one response for each project, reissued the solicitation for the fourteen acre project in February and still received only one response. She said that North Idaho Landscape and Forestry was the only respondent for both solicitations.

Ms. Bieze reported that the bids she received from the group had been too high at first; they reduced their price to an acceptable level when she told them. She recommended

that the Board accept the bids in tomorrow's Business Meeting. She added that the projects were grant funded.

KCSO Patrol Deputy Alana Hunt exited the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Jail Health Care Contract (Action)

KCSO Captain Andy Deak reminded the Commissioners that he had sent them a packet of information on the Jail's current medical care provider, CHP. He listed several areas in which their performance had not been satisfactory. He said he was asking the Board to approve the 90 day notice to CHP to end the contract with them.

Captain Deak reported that they had received bids for the contract and one of the bidders was prepared to take on the contract at the end of the 90 day period. He explained that CHP had been informed about problems on an ongoing basis, but they had not made needed improvements. He said that he felt that they would not see significant improvements in the future, if they continued the old contract.

Captain Deak stated that the new company, VitalCore Health Strategies, offered more robust staffing, an excellent reputation, and scored higher on the evaluations submitted by command staff. He said that their bid was about \$100,000 more than CHP's for FY22 and explained why he felt this was an acceptable amount.

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney R. David Ferguson commented that it would be appropriate for the Board to offer its approval of sending the 90 day notice in the meeting today, but suggested that they ratify the action in the Business Meeting tomorrow.

Commissioner Duncan moved that the Board approve the "90 Day Out" letter as outlined in this meeting. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye
Commissioner Duncan: Aye
Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

Mr. Ferguson, KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris, KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos and Juvenile Detention Training Supervisor/PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Coordinator Eric Sheffield exited the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Pending Items Status Review – List Attached (Discussion)

County Form of Government Study Committee

Chairman Fillios noted that this topic would be addressed in a meeting tomorrow. He reported that he had discussed the draft document with Mr. Ferguson and would provide the other Commissioners with a clean copy of the updated content.

Facilities Expansion

Commissioner Duncan said that changes had been made to the plans based on the results of last week's meeting. She indicated the process was ongoing.

PAC Airport Lease

Commissioner Duncan stated they were waiting for Airport Director Steven Kjergaard's response to the documents.

1A/B Audio Upgrade

BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones reported that the contract had been approved and the engineering process was due to begin.

Financial Snapshot

This item will be included in next week's Commissioners' Status Update meeting, April 5, 2021.

Ballot Bond Language

Commissioner Duncan reminded all present that she had two Town Hall Meetings scheduled for March 31, 2021 to discuss this topic with the public.

Building Financing

Commissioner Duncan noted that this would also be discussed in the Town Hall Meetings.

State of the County 4/20/21

Commissioner Duncan reminded those present that the State of the County Address was approaching and that the Commissioners each needed to determine what topics they would cover.

Concept of Commissioners Workshop (Discussion)

Kootenai County Resident Les Wigen introduced himself and talked about his experience with government. He explained that he knew that the three Commissioners were not allowed to talk to each other about County policy outside of a public meeting. He remarked that even two Commissioners were not allowed to talk privately about decisions on County business. He suggested that a way be found for this rule to be circumvented, maybe by creating a new type of meeting or by increasing the number of Commissioners, so that two Commissioners would no longer constitute a quorum.

- 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.

Kootenai County Resident Sandy White stated that she opposed the implementation of any of the proposed alternate forms of government. She said she also wanted the Board to bring the Second Amendment Sanctuary proposal back in a future meeting and approve it for Kootenai County.

- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
