

Minutes of Meeting
Coeur d’Alene Area Economic Development Corporation (Jobs Plus)
March 22, 2023
1:30 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan, Commissioner Bruce Mattare and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Sierra Hansen. Also present were Coeur d’Alene Area Economic Development Corporation President Gynii Gilliam and Kootenai County Resident Charity Myser.

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

CDA Area Economic Development Corporation FY24 Budget Request with President Gynii Gilliam (Action)

Coeur d’Alene Area Economic Development Corporation (CdA EDC) President Gynii Gilliam stated that her group’s focus this year would continue to be on business retention and expansion. She said they would also work on bringing talent into the area and on challenges in the housing market. She described their efforts for affordable housing with the HomeShare program, Coeur Terre and other entities. She stated that they were defining “affordable housing” as being priced below \$500,000.

Ms. Gilliam described a potential strategy being considered by PAHA (Panhandle Affordable Housing Alliance), which apparently included restricting the resale amount a person could charge when they later sold a property. She remarked that companies viewed her group’s efforts favorably, since housing challenges existed across the country right now, but few areas were addressing the problem directly.

Ms. Gilliam also described her group’s efforts to improve the local talent pool through the TPM (Talent Pipeline Management) Program, established by US Chamber of Commerce and introduced to the state by the Idaho Workforce Development Council and Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry. She said their efforts would first be targeted on the construction and health care industries. She explained how the program would operate, in cooperation with NIC (North Idaho College).

Ms. Gilliam stated that these efforts would be where most of the money received from the County would be used. She added that some would also be put towards the I-90 Program, the yearly aerospace/aviation conference and expo. She remarked that about 250 people attended the event last year.

Commissioner Bruce Mattare expressed his respect for the efforts made by Ms. Gilliam’s organization but said that, in his months as a Commissioner, he had learned a great deal

about the demands made on taxpayer provided funds. He noted that all the KCSO departments were short of staff, the Jail was overcrowded and there were not enough Patrol Deputies to provide proactive patrolling. He indicated that he did not feel that the Board could supply funds to other entities when they were not able to find enough money for services which were State mandated.

Commissioner Bill Brooks said he agreed with Commissioner Mattare’s points.

No motion was required at this 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.

Kootenai County Resident Charity Myser remarked that this offered an opportunity for the Commissioners to show their wisdom in the use of County resources. She pointed out that all three Commissioners had campaigned as fiscal conservatives and urged them to focus on the needs of County offices and mandated services provided to the community. She stated that subsidizing private industry could not be considered fiscally conservative.

Ms. Myser said that there were already many taxing entities which gave money to CdA EDC: the cities of Coeur d’Alene, Post Falls, Rathdrum and Hayden, NIC, the University of Idaho, Kootenai Health and the Coeur d’Alene Urban Renewal District. She noted that all of these entities were already funded by County taxpayers. She urged the Commissioners to take this into consideration when allocating budget dollars.

- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER LOCKE, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk