

Minutes of Meeting
American Rescue Plan Act Task Force
April 7, 2022
2:00 p.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, Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Deputy Finance Director Keith Taylor, Staff Accountant – Grants Julina Hildreth, Staff Accountant – Budget Brandi Falcon, KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris, KCSO Captain Brett Nelson, Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were ARPA Task Force Member Kaitlyn Smith, Coeur d’Alene Press Reporter Kaye Thornbrugh, Kootenai County Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief of Support Services Dan Ryan and Kootenai County Residents William Le, Jim Ginther, Carole Ginther, Ed DePriest, John Austin, Amy Voeller, Ben Smaller, Luke Russell, Matt Broadway, Cheryl Broadway, and Anita Dupzyk.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

American Rescue Plan Act Task Force Recommendation to Board of County Commissioners (Discussion)

Chairman Fillios introduced the Task Force Director, Treasurer Steve Matheson. Task Force Member Kaitlyn Smith distributed copies of the report.

Treasurer Matheson praised all the Task Force Members for their hard work. He added that Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze and her staff had offered valuable assistance through the process.

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden entered the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Treasurer Matheson reported that the Task Force had its last meeting about half an hour ago and was now disbanded. He stated that they would still be available to answer any questions.

Treasurer Matheson added that Mr. Braden had worked with them throughout the process and had contributed a great deal.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Jill Smith and Treasury Specialist Supervisor Mary Bidwell entered the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Mr. Braden stated that they would soon receive a detailed procurement guide for use in relation to federally funded projects and would be presented to the Board separately. He

explained that he would prepare an official resolution for the Commissioners in relation to this.

Chairman Fillios commented that, since this was the first time the Commissioners were seeing the report, they would take 30 days to review it thoroughly before reconvening to decide what action to take.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan expressed her excitement at receiving the finished product and said she would be strongly inclined to follow the recommendations.

Commissioner Bill Brooks reminded those present that he had said he would support a building project in the amount of \$17 million or less, provided it was paid for by a general obligation bond. He noted that the report recommended that \$22 million in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds be used for such a project and stated he would not support that.

- 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.

KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris reviewed the many challenges his department was currently facing and urged the Commissioners to prioritize public safety needs.

Kootenai County Resident Luke Russell urged the Commissioners to support the Innovia Foundation's project "Launch Northwest."

William Le, Coeur d'Alene, recommended that the Commissioners not accept the ARPA funds because this would equate with a passive compliance with the federal government's current misdeeds. He also recommended that they not provide funds to nonprofit organizations with progressive agendas. He suggested that the Commissioners hold a public hearing before making any final decisions on the use of the funds.

In response to a question from Sheriff Norris, Treasurer Matheson confirmed that the report would be made available to all Elected Officials and that it would be posted on the County's website this afternoon for the public to read.

Kootenai County Resident Ed DePriest asked whether the Commissioners had decided to accept the ARPA funds.

Commissioner Duncan said that the Board had previously voted to accept the funds but had not made a determination on how they would be spent.

Treasurer Matheson confirmed her statement. He remarked that \$32 million had been made available to Kootenai County but the recommendations made by the Task Force only would use about \$27 million. He explained that the remainder was being held aside in case there was another wave of COVID. He said that any money still unspent by December 2026 would have to be returned to the federal government.

Mr. DePriest urged everyone to watch the recording of the recent Post Falls City Council meeting which dealt with use of ARPA funds. He said it included a very informative presentation by Joe Malloy.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk