

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Commissioners' Status Update**  
**April 18, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan, Commissioner Bruce Mattare and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris, KCSO Lieutenant William Klinkefus, Clerk Jennifer Locke, Chief Deputy Clerk Grace Blomgren, Finance Director Brandi Falcon, Treasurer Steve Matheson, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**Facilities Two-Year Plan/Working Group (Discussion)**

Chair Duncan stated that she would like to see the creation of a Working Group with the specific task of arranging the facilities plans for the next two years. She remarked that there would be a large number of moving parts that needed to be balanced.

- Finish the Justice Center Expansion.
- Treasurer's Office switch places with County Assistance.
- Solidify the plans for KCSO departments' movement into Kootenai North.
- Relocation of 911 center.
- Addition of a Driver's License or Vehicle License window at Kootenai North after KCSO moves in.
- Repurposing the Compton Building at the KCSO campus.
- PMR Near-Site Clinic.
- Movement of Community Development to another location.
- Relocation of GIS (Geographic Information Systems).
- Movement of Human Resources into the old Community Development area.
- Possible additional temporary space for Prosecutor's staff.
- Potential sale of the Juvenile Justice Center on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Construction of two courtrooms and office space at Juvenile Detention.
- Relocation of Juvenile Probation to the Juvenile Detention building.
- Completion of the two pods at the Jail.
- New use for the Annex building.

She remarked that she would also like to talk about moving Elections, but that would probably be considered as part of a five or ten year plan.

Chair Duncan said she would like all the stakeholders to be involved in the Working Group, including Information Technology (IT), Adult Misdemeanor Probation (AMP), KCSO, Buildings & Grounds (B&G), Community Development and the Prosecutor's Office.

Commissioner Bill Brooks said that he felt the completion of the Jail pods should be a high priority. He warned that the County could be incurring a liability due to the Jail overcrowding.

KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris stated that there were 516 inmates at the Jail as of this morning and their proper capacity was 361.

Chair Duncan replied that the Board had already had quotes on how much completing the two pods would cost.

Commissioner Bruce Mattare said he agreed with Commissioner Brooks about the urgency of getting the Jail pods completed. He suggested that the Board develop a contingency plan based on the possibility that the Justice Center Expansion could not be addressed at this time. He commented that the price of the Expansion had continued to increase and there would come a point at which they would have to draw a line.

Chair Duncan acknowledged the challenges the Board was facing but said that the Judges could also sue the County Commissioners for not providing appropriate space for them.

Commissioner Mattare commented that it seemed as if the commercial real estate market would soon tank and the County might be able to buy a building for a lot less than the Expansion.

#### **KCSO Move to Kootenai North (Discussion)**

KCSO Lieutenant William Klinkefus reported that there were some concerns about plans for Kootenai North expressed by the City of Hayden. He said the City would need to approve certain changes KCSO would make at that site. He indicated that KCSO was reluctant to invest too much time into the project until it seemed certain that it would go through.

Chair Duncan said that she had not seen any signs that this part of the project was not feasible. She stated that there were some things that would need to be managed, but nothing that blocked it. She suggested that representatives from the City of Hayden be invited to walk through the building with KCSO to see what changes were being proposed.

Chair Duncan predicted that it would take about 30 days for the Working Group to develop a workable plan of action.

It was generally agreed that they would start on creation of a Working Group, of a manageable size.

Commissioner Brooks said he wanted it on the record that he predicted that the cost for the Justice Building Expansion would reach or exceed \$50 million before it was done.

**Prosecutor’s Office Space (Discussion)**

Prosecutor Stanley Mortensen was not able to attend the meeting, so it was generally agreed that this discussion would be deferred.

**CDA Economic Development Housing Survey (Discussion)**

Chair Duncan reminded those present that the County had completed a similar survey in 2021 for Coeur d’Alene Economic Development Corp. (CdA EDC).

Commissioner Brooks remarked that he did not think the survey had been particularly useful.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mattare, Chair Duncan said the data from the previous survey had been used by CdA EDC to launch an initiative with Connect Kootenai.

Commissioner Mattare indicated that, as long as so many people wanted to move to the area, he did not see how a reduction in housing costs could be achieved.

Commissioners Brooks and Mattare said they were not interested in supporting the survey.

- 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. There were no public comments.
- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER LOCKE, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk