

Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Status Update
May 10, 2021
10:00 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 Finance Director Dena Darrow, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jamila Holmes, Assessor's Office Comptroller Deena Cox, Assessor's Office Administrative Manager Reba Grytness, Residential Appraisal Technician II Lisa Wegner, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, BOCC Administrative Supervisor Leighanna Keiser, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were KCEMSS (Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System) Chief Bill Keeley and KCEMSS Director of Administration Tracy Abrahamson.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):

Commissioner Leslie Duncan asked that item two on the agenda, "Garden Parking Lot North Property Line" be deferred to next week's meeting.

No objections were voiced.

C. Business (Discussion):

Board of Equalization Training/Update

Commissioner Duncan reported that she had participated in Board of Equalization (BOE) training last week. She listed some of the high points:

- The Assessor is presumed to be correct in a BOE Hearing. A preponderance of evidence must be provided by the appellant to justify a change in assessed value.
- The BOE can adjust valuation to include certain exemptions.
- A description of the reasons for which a Commissioner should recuse him/herself from a BOE hearing was provided.
- If no representative of the property owner appears for an oral appeal, the hearing will be conducted as a written appeal, rather than being rejected.
- If an appeal is brought based on property damage, the BOE will take into account the period of time during which the owners did not have use of the property.
- The Board of Equalization should not negotiate with participants in a hearing. Their obligation is to affirm the Assessor's valuation or adjust it based on evidence presented by the appellant.

Garden Parking Lot North Property Line

This item was removed from the agenda.

Assessor's Office Comptroller Deena Cox, Assessor's Office Administrative Manager Reba Grytness, Residential Appraisal Technician II Lisa Wegner exited the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weeds/Snowgroomers Director Nick Snyder entered the meeting via teleconference at 10:10 a.m.

Trespass County Property Cataldo

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jamila Holmes reported that she had drafted a letter to the property owner and registered agent of the LLC in question stating that the owner and guests were trespassed from the County property as described. She noted that the County property was adjacent to the owner's land, on which are held a number of regularly scheduled events. She stated that Mr. Snyder had spoken to the owner on a couple of occasions, asking that the events not encompass the County land. She said that the letter would formalize a ban from the County property in the future.

Mr. Snyder stated that it was not appropriate for a private citizen to encumber public property for profit. He said he hoped that the official letter will end the dispute.

Ms. Holmes asked if the Board would direct her to finalize and send the letter.

All three Commissioners voiced their approval.

The name of the property owner and the specific County property in question were not specifically stated in the discussion.

Pending Items Status Review – List Attached

County Form of Government Study Commission

Commissioner Bill Brooks said that a meeting was scheduled tomorrow night for the Study Commission Members to receive training on open meeting law and other topics from BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones.

Facilities Expansion

Commissioner Duncan reported that LCA Architects and Longwell Trapp Architects would meet May 13 and 14 to continue discussions on space planning.

PAC Airport Lease

Commissioner Duncan said that Airport Director Steven Kjergaard had told her he was waiting for communication from Wally Jacobsen.

1A/B Audio Upgrade

Ms. Jones stated that the work for this project would be done June 14 through June 18, 2021, according to the current schedule. She noted that BOCC meetings that week would be relocated as required.

Financial Snapshot

Chairman Fillios remarked that the Financial Snapshot had been provided in last week's meeting and would be repeated on the Commissioners' Status Update held the first Monday of June.

Ballot Bond Language

Commissioner Duncan said this topic was on hold pending decisions by the Legislature.

Building Financing

Commissioner Duncan said this topic was on hold pending decisions by the Legislature.

Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System (KCEMSS) Recap of 2020 and Discussion of Fee Increase with KCEMSS Chief Officer William Keeley

KCEMSS (Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System) Chief Bill Keeley reviewed the KCEMSS 2020 Annual Report. He listed the staff, described the Joint Powers Board, System Partners, gave statistics on the use of their services, and noted the system enhancements they had recently implemented. He gave a brief overview of their different divisions: Finance & Administrative, Support Services and Clinical Services.

Chief Keeley stated that the last rate increase imposed by KCEMSS in 2019. He explained that their rates needed to increase to stay level with the Medicare system. He explained that Medicare had changed their payment model and all providers needed to make adjustments to accommodate their numbers.

KCEMSS Director of Administration Tracy Abrahamson explained that one third of their revenue each year came from property taxes and two thirds from billing for services rendered. She stated that they were proposing a 5% rate increase, which had been brought before the Joint Powers Board. She said the Joint Powers Board had approved bringing the proposal before the BOCC.

Ms. Abrahamson provided details of their revenue collection, restrictions placed on them in that area and the expected impact of changes that the Legislature appeared to be making.

Ms. Abramson noted that the BOCC would need to call a public meeting if the 5% rate increase was to move forward.

Chief Keeley reviewed a comparison of rates in other parts of Idaho for different levels of service.

All three Commissioners voiced approval for KCEMSS to proceed to a public hearing for the rate increase.

Kootenai County Resident William Le entered the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

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): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
