

**Minutes of Meeting  
Commissioners' Status Update  
May 17, 2021  
11:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios and Commissioner Leslie Duncan met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Public Defender Anne C. Taylor, Finance Director Dena Darrow, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Madison Hardy. Commissioner Bill Brooks was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**Grant Application for Public Defense Commission (Action)**

Public Defender Anne C. Taylor called attention to the submitted grant application provided to the Commissioners. She explained that the application listed what was spent in FY2020 and then provided a projection of what would be needed in FY2022. She reviewed the details of the Formula Grant, the Work Load Compliance Grant and their other requests for County-funded positions and increases.

Ms. Taylor noted that they had requested an Investigator and another Administrative Assistant through the Work Load Grant. She said there would be costs associated with these new positions to be covered by the County for computers and other on-boarding expenses.

Ms. Taylor confirmed that the regular grant request was for \$1.21 million and the Work Load Compliance grant request was for \$1.3 million, to come from the PDC (Public Defense Commission).

Commissioner Leslie Duncan moved that the Board approve the grant application as presented by the Public Defender for the Public Defense Commission. Chairman Fillios seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks:           Excused

Commissioner Duncan:        Aye

Chairman Fillios:               Aye

The motion carried.

Commissioner Duncan asked that item three on the agenda be handled next, to allow Ms. Taylor to depart.

**Percent Change in Funding for Public Defender Full-Time Investigator Position (Discussion)**

Ms. Taylor reminded the Commissioners that they had previously approved upgrading a part-time Investigator position to full-time, but that the estimated split of the cost to the County had been calculated incorrectly. She confirmed that it would be a 60%/40% split. She said the County would pay half the wages, plus the loaded cost for benefits.

No motion was required.

Finance Director Dena Darrow stated that this item would appear on tomorrow's Business Meeting agenda for final approval and associated documents would be updated.

Ms. Taylor exited the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

**American Rescue Plan (Action)**

**Use of Funds**

**Possible Formation of Committee to Investigate Appropriate Use of Funds**

Chairman Fillios explained that the County could apply for \$32,184,700 through this program. He said the payment, if approved, would be delivered in two stages, half after approval and half next May. He pointed out that some conditions for use of the money had been provided, but some needed further investigation. He said he would particularly like to find out whether the funds could be used for the new building.

Chairman Fillios commented that capital investments and public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs were listed as appropriate uses, so creation of new courtrooms might qualify. He said that adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics were listed and, since the County had needed to shift jury selection to the Fairgrounds, a new building or expanding the existing District Court building could be acceptable. He added that funds could also be used for premium pay for essential workers.

Chairman Fillios suggested that a committee be created to look into the subject to determine whether the County should apply for the money and how it could be used. He said he had a list of people he thought should be on the committee: Ms. Darrow, Human Resources (HR) Director Sylvia Proud, Court Services Director Marissa Garza, Chief Bailiff Pete Barnes, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Operations Manager Greg Manley, Treasurer Steve Matheson, Prosecutor Barry McHugh and BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe.

Ms. Darrow stated that she had spoken to the Resource Management Office (RMO) about the idea. She suggested that a small group get together to review the rules for using the grant money before anything else was done. She said that she and Deputy Finance Director Keith Taylor had spoken to the County's external auditors and had been told that they had several years during which application could be made, so it did not have to be

done immediately. She cautioned that the Treasury rules about the grant had not yet been finalized, so taking the time to ensure proper understanding was recommended.

Ms. Darrow reported that the external auditors had suggested that they discuss the grant with other community leaders who would also manage part of the money and coordinate all their efforts. She said that eligibility requirements for water, sewer and broadband had been decided, while premium pay eligibility was less clearly outlined but leaned toward law enforcement and healthcare workers.

Ms. Darrow suggested that an initial examination be made with one of the Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys to identify the guidelines for the County. She said that representatives from the Auditor's Office, RMO and Legal could meet for the first stage.

Chairman Fillios said he would like Ms. Plouffe included in the first stage group as well. He confirmed that no motion was needed at this time.

### **Pending Items Status Review – List Attached (Discussion)**

#### County Form of Government Study Commission

Chairman Fillios commented that the first official meeting of the Commission would be held tonight.

BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones said that she had provided the members with training on open meeting law and other topics last week. She confirmed that any requests for legal opinions would be routed through her to the Civil Office.

#### Facilities Expansion

Commissioner Duncan reported that there had been a meeting last week and the Board should receive the long range plan soon.

#### PAC Airport Lease

Chairman Fillios said he would ask Commissioner Bill Brooks to follow up with Airport Director Steven Kjergaard for an update on this.

#### 1A/B Audio Upgrade

Ms. Jones said there was a planning meeting this afternoon for the audio upgrade.

#### Financial Snapshot

Commissioner Duncan confirmed that the next financial snapshot would be provided at the June 7, 2021 meeting.

Ballot Bond Language

Commissioner Duncan said this was pending receipt of the long range plan.

Building Financing

Commissioner Duncan said this was also pending receipt of the long range plan.

Ms. Darrow reminded those present that there was an 8% cap, regardless of new growth, on the County's taxing authority.

Chairman Fillios commented that this would cap them at about \$4 million for FY22.

**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 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

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

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