

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**FY22 Budget Deliberations**  
**June 2, 2021**  
**1:00 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 Coroner Warren Keene, M.D., Prosecutor Barry McHugh, KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos, KCSO Captains Andy Deak, John Holecek and Kevin Smart, KCSO Administrative Assistant Tammy Exley, Chief Deputy Treasurer Jill Smith, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiaramonte, County Assistance Manager Shelly Amos, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Maintenance Supervisor Tom Reed, First Judicial District Trial Court Administrator Karlene Behringer, Assessor’s Office Administrative Manager Reba Grytness, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda
- C. Business (Action):**

**FY22 Budget Deliberations to Include “C” Budget (Capital Items)**

Finance Director Dena Darrow reported that the deficit was down to \$2.1 million, based on her most recent calculations. She explained this included cuts made by District Court, the cuts and the new Fund Balance amount allocated in the meeting earlier this day and a cut of half a year of funding for open positions. She remarked that, if the Sheriff’s overtime request was kept at the same level as this year’s, it would bring the deficit down to \$1.6 million.

KCSO Lieutenant William Klinkefus and Court Services Director Marissa Garza entered the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Ms. Darrow commented that a great deal of overtime was being used in several departments because the County had so many open positions.

KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris entered the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

There followed a general discussion of ways to close the deficit, including the potential use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Jill Smith pointed out that ARPA funds needed to be obligated by 2024 and spent by 2026.

Court Services Manager Kally Young entered the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Ms. Darrow provided additional information on overtime used and requested for KCSO.

BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones entered the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Ms. Smith offered suggestions on how to juggle ARPA money, Fund Balance and Forgone Taxes to potentially balance the budget, with the cuts that had already been taken.

KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos expressed his concern regarding the proposed cuts to overtime and positions.

KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris voiced agreement with the issues raised by Undersheriff Mattos.

It was generally agreed that, for the time being, the overtime request from KCSO would be funded at the same level as FY21 and open positions would be funded at 50%, with the understanding that the Board would revisit the items as soon as possible.

The Commissioners expressed reluctance to include Forgone Taxes in the Budget Deliberations at this time.

Chairman Fillios assured Sheriff Norris that, should KCSO get a number of qualified candidates they want to hire immediately, the arrangements on open positions would not be implemented in such a way as to prevent it.

Commissioner Duncan expressed reluctance to fund expenses which were going to recur year after year from one-time sources. She reminded those present that this would cause a budget crisis next time. She remarked that they had no way to know whether the Legislature would impose further limits on the County's taxing ability, such as only 50% of any closing URD, or even not allowing any amount to be taken at all. She stated the County needed stable funding for yearly expenses.

After substantial discussion of KCSO's overtime and open positions, Ms. Darrow confirmed that the Commissioners wished to leave in the \$600,000 for overtime, leaving the current figure for the deficit at \$2.1 million.

Chairman Fillios requested a department by department breakdown for the next budget meeting.

Ms. Darrow suggested a meeting on June 23, 2021.

Sheriff Norris stressed that the staffing needs at 911 were reaching a crisis point. He asked the Commissioners to consider what could be done regarding retention and recruitment bonuses.

Commissioner Duncan suggested this be taken up in more detail during the Human Resources meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021.

Undersheriff Mattos objected to the retention and recruiting bonuses being handled from one central pool of money under the BOCC. He said he would prefer KCSO to have access to its own fund, because they knew better what to do with it than anyone outside their department.

- 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 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

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

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