

Minutes of Meeting
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
June 15, 2022
10:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios and Commissioner Leslie Duncan met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden, Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Staff Accountant – Budget Brandi Falcon, Treasurer Steve Matheson, Chief Deputy Treasurer Jill Smith, Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze, RMO Grants Manager Dorian Komberec, RMO Grants Technician Kaitlin Smith, Juvenile Detention Director JT Taylor, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham, Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System (KCEMSS) Chief Bill Keeley, Coeur d’Alene Press Reporter Kaye Thornbrugh, Kootenai County Residents Russel McClain, Emily Aizawa, Vanessa Moos, Bill Muck and William Le, and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Mr. Braden was present via teleconference. Commissioner Bill Brooks was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios 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:**

Discuss and Approve Projects from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Task Force Recommendations (Action)

Chairman Fillios called for Public Comment before addressing the agenda item, but there was none offered.

Deputy Finance Director Keith Taylor and Staff Accountant – Grants Julina Hildreth entered the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Chairman Fillios voiced his appreciation of the efforts made by everyone on the County’s ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Task Force. He asked Treasurer Steve Matheson, who had acted as the head of the Task Force, if he had any comments.

Treasurer Matheson stated that he felt the report the Task Force submitted spoke for itself. He reminded those present that the Task Force had been disbanded after the report was initially submitted and stated that representatives from Legal and from the Resource Management Office (RMO) would be available to answer questions on the report in the future.

RMO Director Jody Bieze asked that her department be fully included in any projects the Board decided to pursue. She noted that OIG (Office of the Inspector General) was reviewing Coeur d’Alene’s use of CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) funds and Kootenai County’s transportation funding. She stated that maintaining consistent and complete documentation was necessary for all parties involved.

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden reported that attention had been given to all questions brought up by the Task Force and by members of the public. He said he was confident that the recommendations made by the Task Force met all federal and state legal requirements.

Chairman Fillios stated that today the Board would address the initial amount of about \$27.3 million. He said that the additional amount of \$5 million would be addressed separately, at a future meeting.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan suggested that the additional \$5 million not be addressed in detail for another couple of years, in order to allow provision for any project contingencies or other issues that might arise.

Ms. Bieze confirmed that the funds needed to be obligated for projects by 2024 and expended by 2026.

Commissioner Duncan stated that she was part of the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization (KMPO) Board and, at their last meeting, they were presented with the projections for the County's growth. She said that, by 2045, County population was estimated to reach 319,000. She commented that the recommended projects would not fully satisfy the County's needs before then, but she felt the list presented by the Task Force addressed some of the most important ones.

Commissioner Duncan said that the proposed Justice Building Expansion would account for the largest part of the ARPA funding allocated to the County. She pointed out that the day the expansion was finished, the building would immediately be completely filled. She outlined the courts' need for additional space and said she was glad the local taxpayers would not need to pay for it alone.

Commissioner Duncan remarked that there had been many excellent projects proposed to use the ARPA money, but that not all could be funded. She assured those present that she had researched all the requests and potential consequences exhaustively and felt the right choices were going to be made. She stated she was comfortable supporting the projects recommended by the Task Force, as submitted, for \$27,292,599. She read the list of projects into the record:

- Addition to the Justice Building - \$22 million
- Admin Campus HVAC - \$2 million
- Prosecutor's Office, Family Justice Center Study - \$175,000
- Coroner's Office, Mobile Morgue Trailer - \$6,000
- Kootenai County EMS, Ambulance Purchase Needs - \$1 million
- Kootenai County EMS, Reimbursement of COVID-19 PPE & Misc. Expenses - \$14,000
- KCSO Jail, Generator Upgrade - \$550,000
- Buildings & Grounds (B&G), Juvenile Detention Center HVAC - \$217,000
- Children's Village: Premium Pay for Non-Executive Staff - \$291,000
- On Site for Seniors: Operational Costs - \$125,000
- CDAIDE: Direct and Staffing Costs for Care Program - \$50,000

- Wellspring Meadows: Direct Care Retention and Sign-On Bonuses - \$332,000
- IT (Information Technology) Department, Cybersecurity and Data Backup - \$500,000

Commissioner Duncan stated that subrecipients would be contacted once the vote had been made and the responsibility would then lie with them to comply with the requirements.

Treasurer Matheson confirmed that the subrecipients would seek reimbursement from the County for expenses after providing proof that all requirements had been met.

Commissioner Duncan also praised Clerk Jim Brannon, Treasurer Steve Matheson and the Task Force members for their hard work.

Chairman Fillios voiced his agreement with Commissioner Duncan’s statements.

Commissioner Duncan moved that the Board approve the recommended portfolio of projects as listed in the Kootenai County ARPA Task Force Recommendation Sheet. 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.

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 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk