

Minutes of Meeting
FY22 Budget Deliberations
June 21, 2021
1:30 p.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 Coroner Warren Keene, M.D., Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Human Resources (HR) Director Sylvia Proud, KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris, KCSO Captains John Holecek and Andy Deak, KCSO Lieutenants Mark Ellis, Scott Maxwell and William Klinkefus, KCSO Administrative Assistant Tamara Exley, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Court Services Director Marissa Garza, Court Services Manager Kally Young, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Maintenance Supervisor Tom Reed, 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.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action):**

FY22 Budget Deliberations to Include Revenue Projections

Finance Director Dena Darrow briefly reviewed previous budget information, such as the open Capital and Personnel items. She pointed out that the use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for one-time expenses was also being studied.

Ms. Darrow addressed Capital items first. She said that there were still two items left that were tax levy funded: \$700,000 for the last year of the leases on the KCSO vehicles and \$120,000 for the Fair. She stated there were several items being paid for out of Fund Balance, totaling roughly \$500,000, with the understanding that ARPA would probably cover them and allow the money to be returned to Fund Balance.

Under Personnel, Ms. Darrow reported that several positions that had been funded at 50% had been filled, so they needed to be returned to full funding. She stated that the remaining items in this category were mostly requested increases for specific positions and the proposed General Pay Plan increase of \$2.5 million.

Ms. Darrow said that the Elected Officials had been asked to provide a list of potential ARPA requests to the task force in charge of evaluating them.

Moving on to Revenue, Ms. Darrow listed the County's sources: property taxes, grants, fines, fees, rents, permits and fund balance. She noted that about \$1.6 million was being used from Fund Balance for the current stage of the budget. She said that several departments had raised their fees and the State Revenue Sharing numbers had been updated. She reported that the State had informed them that there would be no URD (Urban Renewal District) closures in time to be included in this budget cycle. She said

that there was a meeting with Alliant scheduled on July 14, 2021 to discuss the increase on employee benefits for the year.

Ms. Darrow provided the current revenue figures and expenses, with the deficit now being at \$1,092,122. She described different options for coming to a balanced budget for the Commissioners to consider. She reminded those present that the County Assistance situation was still uncertain, since the state had not yet finalized its new guidelines.

Commissioner Duncan commented that she was working on additional "B" (Operations) Budget cuts with several departments. She said she was trying to find funds to cover additional positions for District Court, since their situation was so serious.

Court Services Director Marissa Garza described the difficulties her department was undergoing. She explained that the Civil Department staff were unable to keep up with the daily electronic filings, even with substantial overtime hours. She stated that the State Supreme Court was asking for a written explanation of the cause of the backlog and a plan to remedy the situation.

Assessor's Office Administrative Manager Reba Grytness entered the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Ms. Garza provided details of the increased staff she would need to correct the problem.

There followed general discussion about possible cuts and use of ARPA funds to close the gap in the budget.

Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke provided additional information about County Assistance needs, expenses which the state may take on and expenses previously covered by the state which were going to be passed on to the County starting in March.

Commissioner Duncan asked that another Deliberations meeting be scheduled within the next week to complete the adjustments needed.

Prosecutor Barry McHugh asked when an estimate of the unspent funds from the FY2020 Budget would be available.

Commissioner Duncan predicted that information would be available by the end of July.

Additional general discussion took place regarding the \$2 million in returned CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act funds, and the Fair's budget request.

Commissioner Bill Brooks said he felt that the Fair was not always treated fairly in Budget considerations and asked that the Board not go to their requests first when looking for things to cut.

- 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.

KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris described the situation between KCSO and the City of Hayden, including the need for more officers on patrol and the resulting increased request for funding from Hayden. He reminded those present that he was in negotiations with Hayden in relation to updating their contract with KCSO. He remarked that the County should develop a public safety strategic plan.

The Commissioners acknowledged the problem and said they were working on such a plan.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
