

Minutes of Meeting
District Court FY21 Budget Review
May 4, 2020
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 Clerk Jim Brannon, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Deputy Finance Director Keith Taylor, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiaramonte, Court Services Director Marissa Garza, Court Services Manager Kally Young, Prosecutor Barry McHugh, First Judicial District Trial Court Administrator Karlene Behringer, Trial Court Administrative Assistant Jamie Robb, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action Item)**

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Review – District Court

First Judicial District Trial Court Administrator Karlene Behringer stated that her first request for the new budget was for more personnel. She said she would like to hire two more bailiffs, who would take on both regular duties and assist the new judges who would be starting in the fall. She said she would also like to hire one Deputy TCA (Trial Court Administrator), to help relieve Trial Court Administrative Assistant Jamie Robb’s work load. Last, she stated she would like to hire an Administrative Assistant with the intent that the person help Court Assistance Officer Jay Sturgell.

Ms. Behringer explained that, instead of asking for the BOCC to provide funding for some needs, she had worked to transfer money between line items. She noted that she had asked for additional funds for 8123 Investigators; the budget for which was currently set at only \$1,000. She said she also was asking for more for 8251 Witness Payments. She pointed out they had been substantially over budget in both of these areas last fiscal year. She stated that, under statute, when a defendant has an attorney appointed, the attorney can ask the court to help pay for investigators, witnesses, evaluators and similar expenses. She said that there had been more indigent people served lately and the costs in these areas have been very high.

Ms. Behringer said she had also requested additional money for juror parking and for the ammunition budget.

Prosecutor Barry McHugh exited the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Ms. Behringer stated that they were considering how to house the new personnel. She said she had asked the state to provide funds for two or three years of rent but had not yet received an answer. She added that having people continue to work from home and come in for meetings was also being considered.

Chairman Fillios summarized the “B” Budget request at about \$798,000; an increase of about \$30,000 from FY20’s adopted figure.

Deputy Finance Director Keith Taylor suggested that approving the Deputy Trial Court Administrator position would allow the BOCC to more closely monitor expenses for programs such as CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Commissioner Leslie Duncan commented that the Board was not ready to begin cutting anything in the proposed Budgets yet. She acknowledged that providing necessary court services was a high priority.

D. Public Comment (Discussion): 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 was no public comment.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
