

**Minutes of Meeting
Elected Officials
June 17, 2020
9:00 a.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 Assessor Bela Kovacs, KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, Treasurer Steve Matheson, Chief Deputy Assessor Joe Johns, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was NWPOA (Northwest Property Owner's Alliance) President Jeff Tyler.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action):**

Introduction of New Assessor Bela Kovacs

Those present welcomed the new Kootenai County Assessor Bela Kovacs. He thanked them and said he was honored to have been chosen to serve. He praised the Assessor's Office staff and said he looked forward to working with them. He added that he also looked forward to working collaboratively with the other Elected Officials.

Property Tax Relief Proposal

Chairman Fillios reminded those present that the state government had decided to set aside \$188 million to offer counties that were able to refrain from taking an increase in property tax this year. He explained that the funds were to be used to reimburse the wages of first response staff. He stated that each individual taxing entity within the County would be offered the opportunity. He said he had been informed that EMS (Emergency Medical Services) intended to decline and take the 3% increase they normally would have gotten, but this did not disqualify the County or other entities from participating. He added that more information on the proposal would be coming soon.

Treasurer Steve Matheson said there were still a number of questions that needed to be answered about how the proposal would be enacted. He expressed his concern regarding its details of the program and how the County might be fiscally impacted in the future.

Chairman Fillios said that they could participate and still be allowed to take new growth, plus any fees or grants the County would normally receive. He stated that new growth this year would come to about \$1.2 million.

A member of the public and accompanying child entered the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Those present discussed the potential ramifications of accepting the proposal.

The two visitors exited the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke suggested that the Board and other Elected Officials seek additional information from State Representative Mike Moyle, since he has been prominent in the efforts to control property tax revenues for counties.

- 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.

NWPOA (Northwest Property Owner’s Alliance) President Jeff Tyler expressed his interest in any program that could offer tax relief in Kootenai County. He urged the Elected Officials to seek additional information.

- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
