

Minutes of Meeting
FY21 Budget Deliberations
June 19, 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 item. Also present were KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, KCSO Captains Kim Edmondson and Kevin Smart, KCSO Lieutenant Ryan Higgins, KCSO Sergeant William Klinkefus, KCSO Deputy Dennis Stinebaugh, KCSO Administrative Assistant Tamara Exley, Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Human Resources (HR) Director Sylvia Proud, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiaramonte, Court Services Director Marissa Garza, Court Services Manager Kally Young, First Judicial District Trial Court Administrator Karlene Behringer, Chief Deputy Coroner Lynette Acebedo, Resource Management Office (RMO) Senior Program Manager Kimberli Riley, Assessor’s Office Administrative Manager Reba Grytness, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Contractor Shawn Riley, NWPOA (Northwest Property Owners’ Alliance) President Jeff Tyler and Kootenai County Resident Tony Wisniewski. Ms. Riley, Ms. Behringer and Captain Smart were present via teleconference.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action):**

FY21 Budget Deliberations to Include Operations (“B”) Budgets and Preliminary Balancing

Chairman Fillios reminded those present that any decisions made today were not completely final; the process was ongoing and cuts could be revisited during upcoming meetings.

Finance Director Dena Darrow announced that the current deficit figure was \$1,218,467.

Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiaramonte stated that they had examined the “B” Budgets for the last several years, with special attention to utility costs and recruiting expenses. The Commissioners discussed reducing the amounts set aside for these two items and decided to reduce the increase by 50%.

The Board moved on to consider a potential hiring freeze, partial or full, excluding positions that were currently being actively recruited.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan suggested removing the COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) increase for County employees.

Commissioner Bill Brooks expressed a preference for leaving the COLA increase in the budget but pursuing the hiring freeze. He also voiced his desire to get more information on a single payer health plan for County employees.

Chairman Fillios remarked that he also preferred to explore the hiring freeze while retaining COLA.

Ms. Darrow calculated the results of the Commissioners' different suggestions and reported that any of the three would eliminate the deficit and place the County in the position of having surplus funds, so they could consider adding cut items back. She provided a summary of the cuts and results of each of the Commissioners' suggested options.

Ms. Darrow asked the Commissioners to review the Community Support items included in the Budget.

Chairman Fillios expressed his reluctance to reduce funds for economic development, currently set at \$50,000. He commented he would be willing to cut it by 10%, to \$45,000. Commissioner Brooks agreed. Commissioner Duncan said she would be willing to cut more, since she felt the economic development component belonged to private industry.

The Commissioners agreed to seek additional information from Heritage Health before making any decisions regarding their funding.

Ms. Darrow touched on University of Idaho and PAC (Panhandle Area Council) and suggested the Board consider any adjustments they wanted to make.

Ms. Darrow asked the Board if there were any CAPEX (Capital Expense) items they would like to revisit.

Commissioner Duncan stated that there were two CAPEX items she would like to see funded with tax dollars rather than taken from the Fund Balance: On Base software, the replacement for PaperClip, and the Fleet Management item for \$30,000 for a vehicle for Community Development.

Ms. Darrow stated that there were two meetings left; the July 15, 2020 meeting with Alliant, during which the Treasurer would also offer his projection on investment income. She said the next meeting would be on July 17, 2020 when the Board would need to make their final decisions about balancing the Budget. She added that the Auditor's Office would return with the public hearing document for the Board to review on July 31, 2020. She said that would then be published and the public hearing would take place during the last week of August.

- 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.

Adult Misdemeanor Probation (AMP) Director Keith Hutcheson entered the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Chairman Fillios voiced his support for the economic development allocation in the budget.

KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger pointed out that unemployment was continuing to drop. He said he thought the number of people receiving unemployment would reduce soon.

Court Services Director Marissa Garza offered additional information on the Bailiffs' space requirements.

NWPOA (Northwest Property Owners' Alliance) President Jeff Tyler said he was pleased with the Board's performance in the deliberations meetings and said the NWPOA sent their thanks.

- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
