

**Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Debriefing
August 5, 2019
11:00 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 Finance Director Dena Darrow, Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weeds Director Nick Snyder, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Kootenai County Residents Allis Stafford and Jim Stafford.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Items):**

Coeur d'Alene Chamber Parade Entry Concern

Chairman Fillios reported that he had attended a Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce meeting last week and some concern had been expressed regarding the Dixie Trucking Company's entry, which had included both the Confederate Flag and a questionable graphic on the side of the truck. He said they concluded that closer review of entries would be needed in the future and procedures would be put into place before next year's event.

Commissioner Bill Brooks expressed his general support for freedom of speech and expression and his concern that a standard that demanded that nothing could be displayed that could cause any possible offense from any special interest group would impinge upon them. Commissioner Brooks declared he had zero tolerance for racist behavior but cautioned against the hypersensitivity currently seen nationally. Commissioner Leslie Duncan agreed and pointed out that such matters were often completely subjective. Chairman Fillios agreed in principle but encouraged those interested to visit the website and see the disputed graphic from the truck for themselves.

EMS Proposed FY20 Budget

Chairman Fillios reminded those assembled that he was on the Joint Powers Board for EMS (Emergency Medical Services). He reported that EMS had presented their new budget in a meeting last Tuesday and the Joint Powers Board had approved it. He said the budget included an increase about \$160,000 over last year.

Chairman Fillios commented that the EMS budget was often complicated because they offered different levels of services, basic life and advanced life support, and accept different methods of reimbursement. He noted that most of the reimbursements came from Medicare and Medicaid. He said some issues arose in FY19 due to a larger number of instances in which EMS responded to a call but, upon their arrival, the patient refused

transport. He explained that the expense of the trip was still incurred, but with no individual receiving service, it was unclear how to request reimbursement.

Chairman Fillios said that the other incident that had affected the EMS budget for FY19 was the accident in which one of the ambulances had been totaled. He reported that ICRMP (Idaho Counties Risk Management Program) had paid \$200,000 of the \$290,000 replacement cost and the County was pursuing the other driver's insurance for the remainder.

He stated the total budget for EMS in FY20 would be about 2.6 million dollars.

Finance Director Dena Darrow exited the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Overview of Meeting with Post Falls Mayor and Administrator in Regards to Enforcement Assistance on the Spokane River

Chairman Fillios reported that a meeting had been held last Thursday with the Post Falls mayor, administrator, police chief and attorney. He said KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos, KCSO Captain Matthew Street, KCSO Sergeant William Klinkefus and Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weeds Director Nick Snyder had been present. Undersheriff Mattos had requested their help in increasing enforcement on the Spokane River.

Chairman Fillios commented that it was unlikely that additional manpower would be made available this year because certain issues would need to be addressed. He explained that ICRMP insurance liability would have to be determined for their deputies when serving on a Kootenai County boat. He added that the required two-week training would have to be addressed as well. Chairman Fillios said the Post Falls representatives had told him they would give the County a response in two or three weeks.

Chairman Fillios reported that Mr. Snyder was arranging a meeting with Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer and Police Chief Lee White to present a similar request for assistance.

Commissioner Duncan remarked that she felt they had seen a good level of success this past weekend in enforcement, even better than last weekend. She said she was urging Undersheriff Mattos to try to supply the same level of enforcement for the rest of the boating season.

Mr. Snyder stated that, over the two weekends, there had been a total of 200 boat safety inspections, 94 citations issues for a range of violations, and 5 OUI (Operating Under the Influence) made. He said, of those, 121 safety inspections, 56 citations, 4 OUIs and one boat crash with injury had been from the past weekend.

Chairman Fillios said Sheriff Ben Wolfinger had sent him a preview of a press release that included the figures Mr. Snyder had offered and a warning that KCSO would be conducting similar emphasis patrols on the river for the rest of the season.

Commissioner Brooks said he would have a town hall meeting about the Spokane River issues sometime during the next five weeks. He added that it would be open to everyone and he would stay as long as anyone wanted to talk.

Commissioner Duncan expressed her confidence that we would receive cooperation from the two cities for next year. Chairman Fillios agreed.

- 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.

Jim Stafford reported that he and Bob Stiger had met with Sheriff Wolfinger last week and presented the information they had previously provided to the BOCC. He said the Sheriff had voiced his support for their efforts. Mr. Stafford agreed that the enforcement activity on the river had been much more visible the last two weekends, but felt it still had not eliminated the dangers. He described a near collision he witnessed between one powerboat towing a surfer and three Jet Ski riders. He said boaters violate the 50-foot rule all the time.

Chairman Fillios acknowledged Mr. Stafford's points and said that the Post Falls Chief of Police Pat Knight had remarked he was against allowing any towing activities on the river.

Allis Stafford stated she had also witnessed boats in violation of the 50 foot rule last weekend and had been afraid she was about to see a collision.

Mr. Stafford expressed his appreciation of the BOCC's efforts. Chairman Fillios thanked him and Ms. Stafford for their involvement.

Chairman Fillios asked if there were any way to know how many boaters on any given weekend day were actually from Spokane. Ms. Stafford said that if they came in at Post Falls, there was no one there to count. Mr. Stafford said it would be on any tickets written, so that might give an indication of the proportion.

- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
