

Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Status Update
January 6, 2020
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 Assessor Rich Houser, Treasurer Steve Matheson, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Items):**

Ballot Measure: Advisory Vote Hospital URD

Treasurer Steve Matheson proposed that an advisory vote regarding the Hospital Corridor URD (Urban Renewal District) Project be placed on the May 2020 ballot. He commented that over \$300 million in private development and \$125 million in infrastructure improvements would occur, in addition to the \$100 million hospital project, and the taxing authority would be tied up in the URD for 20 years. He asked the Commissioners to consider where the funds would come from to cover the additional demands on County services that would be created by this project.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan agreed that the tax increment would not be captured by the County, although the County would bear the added expense for services. She added that the other taxing authorities such as school districts and highway districts would not receive their portions either. She stated she would be willing to consider putting the item on the May ballot as long as enough community education was provided so voters clearly understood it would be an advisory vote only, not a binding vote.

Treasurer Matheson said this could be viewed as the City of Coeur d'Alene forcing the County to pay for infrastructure improvements that would ultimately be charged to all County residents' taxes. He stated that it would cost the County approximately \$14 million over the twenty year life of the URD. He said that he felt the County taxpayers deserved to express their opinions, since they would all be affected.

Chairman Fillios said he felt undecided about this suggestion, particularly since it would take place well after the City had already voted to approve the URD. Treasurer Matheson replied that the City had not asked for input from any of the other entities that would be affected. Chairman Fillios said he would be willing to discuss this with City representatives in a non-adversarial way.

Treasurer Matheson explained that this was an issue throughout the state; he hoped to start a discussion that would improve the process for all the counties.

Commissioner Bill Brooks agreed with Treasurer Matheson that the situation did resemble “taxation without representation.” He added that he would like to see advisory votes offered to the community on a number of different issues, but he voiced his concern about the timing of this, in agreement with Chairman Fillios.

Chairman Fillios pointed out that the City could sue the County over the issue. He added that the County could also sue the City or the other cities in Kootenai County could sue as well. Treasurer Matheson stated that Coeur d’Alene may have done a number of things for which it could be sued. He added that he believed they had not considered all the required statutes.

Commissioner Duncan said that if something needed to be done to change how URDs were handled, it needed to start somewhere. She suggested reaching out to all the affected cities and starting a discussion.

Treasurer Matheson volunteered to act as the primary contact for interested parties.

Chairman Fillios voiced his support for her suggestion and volunteered to contact the mayors. He suggested that they all bring their findings back for discussion on the first Status Update meeting in February 2020. There was general agreement.

Treasurer Matheson pointed out that there was a deadline of March 20, 2020 to place an item on the May 2020 ballot. He added that the issue at hand was not jobs or economic development; it was about taxpayers having input on decisions that affected them.

State of the County Planning

BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones reminded the Commissioners that planning for the next State of the County Address had begun. She said the Coeur d’Alene Chamber of Commerce had notified her that they would like to get started.

Commissioner Duncan remarked she liked the way it had been managed last year, with each Commissioner giving a short presentation on the areas of responsibility he or she had taken.

Commissioner Brooks said he also liked the arrangement last year.

Ms. Jones suggested that BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe include key performance indicators in her portion of the presentation, as well as graphics to illustrate points made by the Commissioners in their speeches.

- 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.

Assessor Rich Houser suggested that focus should be brought to ways actions taken by the City of Coeur d’Alene affected the whole County. He remarked that the event was a

City of Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce fundraiser and asked if it might be expanded to include all the Chambers of Commerce in the County.

Ms. Jones said she thought it was a good idea and that she would speak to the other organizations.

Chairman Fillios also agreed.

Ms. Jones also offered thanks to Treasurer Matheson for initiating a discussion about the Hospital URD project.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
