

Minutes of Meeting
Advisory Board Interview
January 6, 2020
3:00 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 was Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Kootenai County Resident Robert Thornton.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Item):**

Planning and Zoning Commission Applicant Interview: Robert Thornton

Chairman Fillios invited Kootenai County Resident Robert Thornton to introduce himself and give some details of his history.

Mr. Thornton said he had moved to Kootenai County in 1980. He informed the Commissioners that there had been no fire protection in the location where he built his house so he worked with three other residents to start a fire district. He added that, since he had some prior experience, he had then been the fire chief for the next eight years.

Mr. Thornton stated he had also worked as a contractor in this area for fifteen years. He added that he had also worked for the Idaho Transportation Department and served in the military.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan asked the first question on the interview sheet.

- **What skills and experience in group dynamics would you bring to the Planning Commission that would make you an effective Commissioner?**

Mr. Thornton pointed to his experience as fire chief. He also said he had been President of the Spokane Gun Club twice and had been involved with the PGA (Professional Golfers' Association).

Commissioner Bill Brooks asked if he was a member of any other groups and if he was familiar with Agenda 21 or Agenda 2030.

Mr. Thornton replied that he was not familiar with Agenda 21 or Agenda 2030. He said he was not a member of any other groups at this time.

Chairman Fillios moved on to the next question on the interview sheet.

- **What do you see is the fundamental role of the Planning Commission?**

Mr. Thornton responded that they helped develop the programs that guided the County's growth and zoning as well as develop the overview of the County's goals.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan asked the next question on the interview sheet.

- **What are your thoughts on the Comprehensive Plan and its updating process?**

Mr. Thornton stated that the 2010 Comprehensive Plan needed to be updated. He said he felt it should be examined on an annual or even an ongoing basis. He pointed out that as things changed in the County, the Comprehensive Plan needed to reflect the changes. He remarked that he had been attending the recent meetings during which the plan was examined.

Mr. Thornton confirmed that he had read the 2010 version. He said he felt it was good; it was heading in the right direction, but it needed improvement.

Commissioner Brooks noted that Planning could be a contentious process. He asked if Mr. Thornton worked well with others.

Mr. Thornton said he would not see eye to eye with everyone, but he was a good listener, respected the opinions of others and tried to include others even if their opinions diverged from his own.

Chairman Fillios moved to the next question on the interview sheet.

- **An effective Planning Commission requires members from all walks of life to ensure that the entire community is well represented. Would you share why you believe your background or experience would be a helpful addition to the Commission? Is there a community segment you feel you represent?**

Mr. Thornton referred back to his experience with the fire department and his employment in the County as a contractor for fifteen years. He remarked that he had dealt with various organizations including the Planning and Zoning Board over the years.

Commissioner Duncan moved to the next question on the interview sheet.

- **Do you have time to devote outside of meetings to study and research issues?**

Mr. Thornton said he did.

Chairman Fillios asked Mr. Thornton his view of property rights.

Mr. Thornton responded that he did not believe in opting out of building codes. He said he does not believe that people have the right to complete free reign on their properties. He stated he felt there should be protections in place if a person does something on their land that would impact others in the area.

Commissioner Brooks asked if he had anything in his military experience that would be helpful in the position.

Mr. Thornton said he had been a Management Analyst for nine years, then worked as a Combat Engineer, a Demolitions Sergeant, for the rest of his twenty-two years. He added that he had retired as a Master Sergeant.

Commissioner Duncan asked if he had filed for any location permits, if he had opted out for anything on his property. He said he had not. She asked if he had done an addition to a single family residence or a pole barn. He said he had, but it was nine years ago.

Chairman Fillios asked how he saw himself working as part of a commission with six other people.

He said he was used to working with other people and being on various committees. He remarked that he had observed the Planning and Zoning Committee and they seemed about average for any group. He said he thought he could work with them productively.

Chairman Fillios escorted Mr. Thornton from the Boardroom. He returned and announced that the meeting would resume at 3:12 p.m.

Commissioner Duncan suggested that the two Executive Sessions be handled together. Chairman Fillios agreed.

Commissioner Duncan moved that the Board enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(a) and (b). Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Aye

Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 3:12 p.m.

Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(a) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent (Closed Session – Discussion Item)

Decisions/Direction (Open Session – Action Item)

Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent (Closed Session – Discussion)

Decisions/Direction (Open Session – Action Item)

The Board exited Executive Session at 3:53 p.m.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan moved that the Board with the following names being brought forth for the Planning and Zoning Commission, to be ratified at a Business Meeting, probably next week: Bingham Van Dyke, Madeleine David, Wes Hanson, John Malloy, David Levine, Debra Rose and Barry Stearns. Commissioner Bill Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye
Commissioner Duncan: Aye
Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

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 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
