

Minutes of Meeting
Advisory Board Interview
January 7, 2020
1:30 p.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 Airport Director Steven Kjergaard and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Kootenai County Resident Paul Watson.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Item):**

Airport Advisory Board Applicant Interview: Paul Watson

Chairman Fillios asked Kootenai County Resident Paul Watson to share some of his personal history with the Board.

Mr. Watson reported that he had been in law enforcement for the last thirty-three years and had just retired two years ago. He said he had been in the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office for ten years, with his last assignment the last six years flying helicopters in their aviation division. He stated he moved to Idaho with his family and worked for the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office for about three and a half years, then took a job in the City of Spokane because the pay was better. He said he spent over twenty years there.

Mr. Watson shared that he had a passion for flying and still flew when he had the chance. In response to a question from Commissioner Bill Brooks, he said he had never owned a plane himself; he had leased them. He added he had flown since 1982.

Mr. Watson stated he had lived in Kootenai County for twenty-five years.

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

- **What skills and experience in group dynamics would you bring to the Airport Advisory Board that would make you an effective member?**

Mr. Watson said he had been an active member of an advisory group with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department that focused on the development of the culture of the Department and creation of unit cohesion. He explained they had 2,500 sworn personnel, so fostering communication was critical. He commented they had been on the cutting edge at that time, creating informational video tapes and having couriers deliver them to the different posts. He said the group had included about twenty members, so working toward a common goal required good organizational skills. He added that he had also taken a couple of group dynamics classes in college.

Commissioner Brooks asked the next question from the interview sheet.

- **What do you see as the fundamental role of the Airport Advisory Board?**

Mr. Watson remarked that he saw creating sustainability as a primary focus of the Airport Advisory Board. He explained that he had watched the growth and diversification of the Airport over the years. He said that the Airport brought business and jobs to the area, which were beneficial to the County. He also mentioned that attention needed to be given to the environmental aspects of the Airport and its impact on local residents' homes. He said he felt that the Advisory Board should work closely with the community.

Chairman Fillios noted that Mr. Watson had already answered the next question on the interview sheet: his experience was in flying helicopters.

- **What is your aviation experience?**

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

- **Describe your community involvement.**

Mr. Watson said he was involved with the Waterways Advisory Board. He said he lived on the Spokane River and has been actively involved with that group.

Commissioner Duncan asked if he had been attending their meetings. Mr. Watson commented that he had, in fact, just come from one.

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

- **The Airport has what may become a yearly event, The Air Expo. What role(s) could you take in the planning, set-up and execution of the event?**

Mr. Watson said he would love to be involved with the event. He said he had just gone to the opening of the new history museum in Spokane and had enjoyed seeing all the old airplanes. He offered to jump in and help with anything necessary; he said he felt he could help with media and with community contact. He noted that, in the past, finding information on the Expo had been difficult, so he would like to work on getting more publicity out.

Chairman Fillios asked if Mr. Watson had any questions for them.

Mr. Watson asked what their expectations of him would be.

Commissioner Duncan said they would want him to focus on listening to the public and working with Airport staff and other stakeholders to develop solutions for issues. She added that they would like a member to remain involved and dedicate time outside of the monthly meetings.

Chairman Fillios remarked that the Advisory Board was, in part, the County's face for the public because Airport Director Steven Kjergaard and the BOCC had limited time to devote. He said that keeping the BOCC aware of public perception on Airport matters would be very important.

Mr. Watson said he felt very capable of satisfying their requirements.

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 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
