

**Minutes of Meeting  
Commissioners' Status Update  
January 13, 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, KCSO Captain Andy Deak, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Senior Staff Accountant Melissa Merrifield, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiamonte, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Contractor Shawn Riley.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Items):**

**Romer Building Update**

Chairman Fillios reported that, after touring the Romer Building, Coeur d'Alene Economic Development Corporation indicated they were not interested in purchasing it. He said that Commissioner Leslie Duncan had been investigating the option of selling the building to someone else with restrictions included in the deed about what could be done on the property. He added that Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer had also suggested swapping the property for a parcel of about forty acres of land the City owned near Fernan Lake.

Commissioner Duncan said she would discuss the potential land swap with Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weeds Director Nick Snyder to see if his staff would be able to care for another park at present levels. She remarked they would also have to consider whether the public would come to a park in that location.

Commissioner Bill Brooks remarked that he would like to know the value of the land by Fernan Lake and suggested that the County might want to consider making the swap, then selling the land.

**New Building Financing Option**

Chairman Fillios reported that a meeting had been set with John Austin and other interested parties on Thursday, January 16, 2020.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Laurie Thomas entered the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

**Jail Maintenance Staffing**

Commissioner Duncan informed those assembled that there had been two Jail Maintenance employees in the past. She explained that both had retired within the last

eighteen months and the single replacement who had been hired was being promoted to another position. She said that, since both positions were vacant now, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Maintenance Supervisor Tom Reed's staff were coming in to cover the duties on overtime.

Commissioner Duncan reported that Mr. Reed and B&G Operations Manager Greg Manley had asked if Jesters Cleaners could be hired to take the job over.

KCSO Captain Andy Deak noted that certain security clearances were required to work in certain parts of the facility. He agreed to look into the requirements further and inform the BOCC.

### **Snowgroomers Machine Repair**

Commissioner Duncan reported that one of the three snowgrooming machines had suffered a serious breakdown. She said a replacement part had been located which would cost about \$6,751 and the labor cost had been estimated at about \$1,000.

Commissioner Duncan said that the Snowgroomers had restricted funds available to cover the expense. She added that IDPR (Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation) had a catastrophic failure fund to which the Snowgroomers could apply for partial reimbursement. She noted that an item would be included on the January 14, 2020 Business Meeting to approve the necessary funding, not to exceed \$9,200.

### **Body Scanner for the Jail**

Commissioner Brooks stated that he had discussed the purchase of a body scanner for the Jail with KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos and KCSO Captain John Holecek. He pointed to a recent incident in which a substantial amount of drugs were found at the Jail and said the research he had done on the subject showed a scanner to be a very effective smuggling deterrent. He stated he had sent Chairman Fillios and Commissioner Duncan copies of articles he had read.

Commissioner Brooks said that the scanners were expensive and the request had been brought before the BOCC in the past, but turned down. He noted that the County could face a large medical bill or an expensive lawsuit if drugs were smuggled into the Jail and someone died or was injured.

Commissioner Brooks suggested that funding for a scanner could be sought in different places, such as the Drug Seizure Fund or money left over from the Jail Expansion.

Finance Director Dena Darrow stated that most or all of the money left in the Jail Expansion Project fund had been committed for use in other ways.

Contractor Shawn Riley agreed; he reminded the Board about the Fuel Tank Replacement Project at the Jail and the requirement from the City of Coeur d'Alene that the Compton Building be hooked to City sewer. He said these would probably use up the rest of that money.

Ms. Darrow said she had brought estimates to the meeting and provided handouts to the Commissioners. She explained some other possible sources that might be tapped to provide the funds. She said she did not know if there were limitations on Fund 158 that might prevent it from being used for a body scanner; she noted that the Sheriff had previously been unwilling to use it for that purpose.

Mr. Riley said he should know in a week or two how much of the Jail Expansion Project fund would need to be used for the Compton Sewer Connection Project. He predicted it would cost at least \$150,000.

Commissioner Brooks acknowledged their points, but stated the scanner was needed and money had to be found. He pressed for this to be included on the next week's Business Meeting agenda.

Commissioner Duncan suggested gathering more information before bringing the purchase request to a Business Meeting. She pointed out they didn't have a quote for the actual machine. She asked Captain Deak about the drug-related death statistics at the Jail over the past three years.

Captain Deak said he did not have those figures but could get them for her.

Commissioner Duncan said that there were training, computers and software that were needed at the Jail also, so they needed to assign priorities for these in relation to the scanner.

Chairman Fillios suggested that Commissioner Brooks complete his research and bring the information back to the Board.

Commissioner Brooks agreed. He stated he absolutely wanted a decision in the next Business Meeting and to see who was for it and who was against it.

**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 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk

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