

**Minutes of Meeting  
Elected Officials  
January 15, 2020  
9:00 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, Clerk Jim Brannon, Coroner Warren Keene, M.D., Prosecutor Barry McHugh, KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, Treasurer Steve Matheson, Chief Deputy Assessor Joe Johns, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Accounting Supervisor – AP & Spending Lori Shaw, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Barry Black, Chief Deputy Treasurer Lauri Thomas and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):**

Chairman Fillios suggested covering item four from the agenda first, followed by item three, since Commissioner Leslie Duncan would need to leave the meeting early. There was general agreement.

- C. Business (Discussion Item):**

**Countywide Advisory Vote, Health Corridor Urban Renewal District**

Treasurer Steve Matheson stated he wanted the other Elected Officials to have the opportunity to ask any questions they might have about his suggestion of an advisory vote being added to the upcoming May ballot regarding the Health Corridor Urban Renewal District. In response to a question from KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, he confirmed that the City's report indicated that the County would lose about \$14 million in tax revenue over the twenty years of the project.

Sheriff Wolfinger asked if the County would receive a projected return in the end in excess of \$14 million. Treasurer Matheson remarked he could not offer an estimate at this time. He said the return would be more than the \$700,000 in revenue the land currently generated, but he could not foresee how much more. He added the revenue would go up anyway due to the normal increase in property value and inflation, but beyond that he could not tell.

Assessor Rich Houser pointed out that the part of the development that would be owned by Kootenai Health would not be taxable.

Sheriff Wolfinger agreed, but noted that there would be hotels and other businesses in the district that would be taxable. He stated that he felt this was not a good time to put an advisory vote on the ballot because the City had already decided the project was going forward. He said a non-binding vote would make the people involved angry to no effect.

Chairman Fillios reported that he had spoken to Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer, Post Falls Mayor Ron Jacobson and Hayden Mayor Steve Griffiths and they had indicated they were not interested in discussing the URD at this time.

Commissioner Bill Brooks stated that he was in favor of advisory votes in general, but that to pursue the issue right now would only create bad feelings.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan indicated that she would be in favor of the advisory vote, but if it were not approved, she would support a more generally phrased non-binding vote or other action to ensure that residents fully understood the impact an URD made on the County.

Prosecutor Barry McHugh raised the question of finding the right time to offer such an advisory vote. He pointed out that there would always be many potential complications to overcome and asked how the Board would ever determine it was a good time to raise the question.

After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Fillios suggested they move on to item three on the agenda, with the acknowledgement that the topic would be further discussed in the future.

### **County Campus Parking Policy**

Commissioner Duncan stated that the draft of the new parking policy had been provided. She said they had received comments on it from the Sheriff and asked if anyone else would like to add something. She remarked that Assessor Rich Houser had circulated an email regarding one of his employees having her car broken into in one of the employee-allowed lots.

Commissioner Duncan reminded everyone that the policy's intent was to keep certain areas open for customers. She added that it was up to the individual Elected Official whether to enforce the policy on their employees or not.

Assessor Houser announced that when they had asked for the video surveillance tape of the lot, they learned there was none. He expressed concern for the safety of his staff who needed to go out into the parking lot to do VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) inspections. He stated that until adequate security was provided for the designed lots, he would not object to his employees parking in the lot that was supposed to be for customers only.

Commissioner Brooks suggested putting signs up warning that there was video surveillance to discourage crime in those lots.

Prosecutor Barry McHugh cautioned that putting false signs up could lead to liability, if people thought a lot was protected but it was not.

Chairman Fillios remarked that video surveillance had been discussed by the prior Board. He suggested the request be taken up in the next budget cycle.

Commissioner Duncan confirmed that the prior Board had been informed that the price for such a system would be \$250,000 at minimum.

After a thorough discussion, Commissioner Brooks volunteered to look into the question further with Information Technology (IT) and report his findings.

### **Budget Process and Timeline**

Sheriff Wolfinger asked for clarification of the timeline for the budget process. He explained that he had heard the deadline would be April 3, 2020, but statute declared he must provide his information on the second Monday of April, which would be the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Darrow commented that nothing was official yet and assured Sheriff Wolfinger that KCSO Administrative Assistant Tamara Exley was part of the budget work group. She said that no firm date had been set; once the prototype forms were completed, they would issue a proposed schedule in line with statute. She said those would then be brought to the Board and all Elected Officials would be invited. She added they hoped to save all the groups' time by minimizing the forms and unnecessary work.

### **Per Diem Reimbursements**

Sheriff Wolfinger asked for clarification of the County's per diem reimbursement policy. He explained that when some of his staff were entitled to per diem expenses, but did not use the full amount, they received a check for the remainder. He said he thought that the unused portion should go back into the appropriate fund in his budget. He added that he was also puzzled that this happened for some employees and not others.

Accounting Supervisor – AP & Spending Lori Shaw explained how the P-card system worked and how pre-approved per diem expenses worked.

Commissioner Duncan exited the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Sheriff Wolfinger stated he would follow up on details at his end to be sure policy was being followed appropriately.

Ms. Darrow confirmed that a reimbursement check was not prepared unless a written request was presented. She said there would have been a travel claim presented, signed by a supervisor and attached to the check.

- 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 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

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

\_\_\_\_\_