

**Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Debriefing
February 4, 2019
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 item. Also present were Human Resources (HR) Director Sylvia Proud, HR Generalist – Employee Relations Kim Buffin, Civil Deputy Prosecutor R. David Ferguson, and Deputy Clerk Ronnie Davisson. Also present was Coeur d'Alene Press Staff Writer Brian Walker.

- 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:**

Opioid Class Action Suit (Discussion)

Chairman Fillios began by explaining that each of the Commissioners had received an email from Prosecutor Barry McHugh asking if they desired to participate in a class action lawsuit against several pharmaceutical companies that had allegedly failed to point out the dangers of opioid use and abuse. He said that he had given Mr. McHugh his opinion in which he believed that Kootenai County did not need to enter the suit. Commissioner Leslie Duncan said she had been at a town hall meeting where she had heard a Senator speak about the issue and that she had sent the information on to Senator Steve Vick. She said she had no opinion either way and said she did not know what benefit it would hold for Kootenai County to enter the lawsuit. Commissioner Bill Brooks said that he would like to receive counsel from Mr. McHugh and then make a decision. Commissioner Duncan agreed and Chairman Fillios said they would schedule an executive session with Mr. McHugh.

Liaison Procedures (Discussion)

Chairman Fillios said he added this topic to the agenda and said that as a new Board, what tended to happen was that each Commissioner sided mainly with the department that they liaise with, and that the best thing to do would be to work together to remedy any situations that may arise.

D. Commissioner Weekly Update (Week of 01/28/2019)

- **Commissioner Duncan**

Commissioner Duncan said she had met with the Snowmobile Advisory Board that morning and had the opportunity to get to know some of them. She said they would bring some discussion items before the BOCC in a few weeks.

Commissioner Duncan then said that Panhandle Area Council wanted to have a meeting to discuss leases at the Airport and would keep the Board informed about any information she gathered. Lastly, she suggested scheduling an interview with at least one applicant for the Planning & Zoning Commission. As Commissioner Brooks and Chairman Fillios wanted to also interview the applicants, Commissioner Duncan suggested they interview the applicants together, as a Board rather than individually. They agreed, and Chairman Fillios said he would have staff schedule the interviews.

- **Commissioner Brooks**

Commissioner Brooks said he would be working with BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones to get the meetings televised. He said it was rather inexpensive and very important to have the meetings televised, as it would help with transparency. Commissioner Brooks then commended Chairman Fillios for helping him to make sound decisions and having a caring approach when helping Commissioner Brooks correct mistakes he may have made.

- **Chairman Fillios**

Chairman Fillios said that he had a complaint from a citizen on Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive, where the citizen had said that there was a piece of property that had multiple RVs on it, which the neighbors took issue with. After speaking with Community Development, he found out that one their code enforcers had already visited the property and found no violation and said that a property owner was entitled to two RVs per lot. Further, since that property owner had two lots, they were able to have four RVs, which was deemed acceptable.

Chairman Fillios said that at a recent North Idaho Pachyderms breakfast, there had been a woman named Jennifer Cooke, who was founder and President of Hank's Law, an organization in which they were petitioning to make animal abuse a felony in Idaho. He said that the reason behind the push to establish the law was because the Cooke's had a family pet, a dog named Hank, who was beaten to death at 14 months old by a neighbor that was pet sitting Hank. When the neighbor was apprehended, he was charged and subsequently sentenced to three months in jail; Chairman Fillios said if it had happened in Washington, it would have been a \$5000 fine and 5 years in jail. He asked the Board if they might consider an ordinance or a Resolution denouncing that type of behavior. He added he was unsure if an ordinance would be possible, as he had yet to consult Legal.

Commissioner Brooks said he hoped they could follow through with Chairman Fillios's suggestion, as animal abusers were very seldom caught or investigated and were even less likely to be prosecuted. Chairman Fillios pointed out that oftentimes, pet abuse resulted in spousal abuse or people abuse and that the best place to bring it up would be the State Legislature, but that did not necessarily mean the County was powerless in the fight.

He concluded the discussion by stating he and Commissioner Duncan would be attending the Idaho Association of Counties Midwinter Conference in Boise that week.

E. Public Comment: 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 were no public comments.

F. Adjourn (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Ronnie Davisson, Deputy Clerk
