

**Minutes of Meeting
Elected Officials
February 19, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Clerk Jim Brannon, Coroner Warren Keene, M.D., Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Treasurer Steve Matheson, Chief Deputy Assessor Joe Johns, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Barry Black, Human Resources (HR) Director Sylvia Proud, Chief Deputy Treasurer Laurie Thomas, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Kootenai County Resident Steve Meyer. Commissioner Leslie Duncan was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action Items):**

Leverage of Technology Start-Ups Presentation by Steve Meyer

Chairman Fillios introduced the guest speaker, Steve Meyer, a partner at Parkwood Properties. He said he had seen Mr. Meyer's presentation at a Coeur d'Alene Economic Development Corp. meeting and felt it would be useful for the Elected Officials.

Mr. Meyer offered a brief personal history. He commented that the County officials should think about the kinds of businesses they most want to attract to the area, businesses that would encourage talented young people to remain in the community and attract new talent from other areas. He pointed out that the most desirable businesses would not consider an area without a skilled pool of potential employees.

Mr. Meyer presented his ideas on how to accelerate business development in the region. He listed the components he felt were needed for this goal, applicable constraints, such as the current extremely low unemployment figures and the housing cost gap for low-wage households.

Mr. Meyer offered a global perspective focused on GDP (Gross Domestic Product) numbers, population spread from rural to urban residency and the effect on economic activity and location of primary scientific research centers. He discussed globalization and how it was reflected by fiber optic internet connectivity. He also provided data on the national workforce.

Mr. Meyer remarked upon the qualities of the new and future workforce in the United States and how all these things were reflected in Northern Idaho with some focus on the differences in community impact as revealed by data from Panhandle Manufacturing and Selkirk Software. He suggested that a focus on the software industry would be beneficial to Kootenai County and offered arguments in support of the point.

Mr. Meyer also suggested ways in which local schools could better prepare students for employment through dual enrollment in high school and NIC (North Idaho College), encouraging summer camps focused on software and robotics, and promoting the iPath program from the Idaho Digital Learning Academy. He also encouraged the creation of additional post-secondary degree programs for computer science.

His other suggestions included that the County join the Idaho Technology Council (ITC), sponsor ITC events and sponsor Angel Investing forums for young entrepreneurs.

Prosecutor Barry McHugh noted that a focus on Common Core Requirements in Idaho Schools should be beneficial to Mr. Meyer's proposals.

Clerk Jim Brannon remarked that reducing government interference was the best way to encourage entrepreneurs to flourish and benefit the economy.

- 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.

BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones reminded all present that the State of the County presentation was scheduled for March 31, 2020.

Human Resources (HR) Director Sylvia Proud announced that she had sent an email update to all Elected Officials regarding the job description project.

- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
