

Minutes of Meeting
North Idaho Fair Board Quarterly Update
March 21, 2023
3:00 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan, Commissioner Bruce Mattare and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were BOCC Administrative Manager Leighanna Keiser, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and County Assistance Specialist/Deputy Clerk Sierra Hansen. Also present were North Idaho Fair General Manager Alexcia Jordan, Fair Board Chair Jerry Johnson and Fair Board Member Linda Rider.

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

Kootenai County Fire & Rescue Fair Services 2022 and 2023, & 2024 Budget (Action)

North Idaho Fair General Manager Alexcia Jordan reminded those present that KCFR (Kootenai County Fire & Rescue) had provided standby services and first aide at the Fair for many years. She said that the standby service had traditionally been paid for by the BOCC. Prior to 2022, she explained, the first aid portion had been provided by a co-op, but that was no longer the case. She stated that this had led to an additional fee being charged for the 2022 Fair in the amount of \$10,848. She reported that this bill had been presented to the BOCC but had not yet been paid.

Ms. Jordan stated that the first aid station was an essential service which the Fair had to provide and asked the BOCC to cover the additional expense for the 2023 Fair and beyond. She said KCFR had provided an estimate of \$11,256 for the 2023 – 2024 season.

Chair Duncan reviewed the amounts the BOCC had paid for standby coverage: \$4,700 in 2018, \$3,700 in 2019, \$4,100 in 2021 and \$5,352 in 2022. She said they had inserted a place holder in the County Budget for 2023 in the amount of \$8,000 for the standby service. She expressed dismay at the additional amount requested and asked Ms. Jordan if she had worked with KCFR to reduce the initial charge. She added that the additional charge had been received very late, in June of 2022.

Ms. Jordan confirmed that she had tried to get them to reduce their fee and the \$10,848 was the result. She also confirmed this would be in addition to the \$5,352 the BOCC had already paid.

Commissioner Bruce Mattare asked whether the Fair ever reimbursed the County for expenses.

Ms. Jordan remarked that the State Attorney General had told them, back in 2015 or 2016, that it was the County's responsibility to pay for these services, according to Statutes 22-206 and 22-209.

Fair Board Chair Jerry Johnson remarked that the Statute was clear.

Chair Duncan responded that there was some disagreement on the Statute and the BOCC had received a legal opinion that indicated the County did not have to cover the additional expense.

Mr. Johnson said that the Board of Commissioners to whom the information had originally been presented had felt it was appropriate for the County to pay.

Commissioner Mattare indicated that he felt the County should be reimbursed for expenses when possible, since there were so many demands on its funds. He remarked that the Statute said the County needed to pay for the protection of County property on the Fairgrounds, but the first aid station did not meet that definition. He said he had witnessed many entities attempting to shift costs on to the County, but the County was trying to retain its staff and pay its own bills. He suggested that, if the Fair were able to cover the cost from revenue, it should.

Ms. Jordan stated that only 3% of their annual budget came from taxpayers. She said the Fair could find a way to pay the aid station costs in the future, but she would ask the Board's help in covering the remaining 2022 charge.

Commissioner Mattare said he would support paying the 2022 charge, with the understanding that he would not support a recurring expense.

Commissioner Bill Brooks said he wanted to be sure the Fair received advance warning of fees the County would or would not cover.

Chair Duncan pointed out that they received that through the yearly budget process.

Chair Duncan moved that the Board of Commissioners cover the 2022 balance of KCFR's bill, with the understanding the Fair Board will cover the August 2023 Fair additional cost for KCFR. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Hansen called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye
Commissioner Mattare: Aye
Chair Duncan: Aye

The motion carried.

Well Update (Discussion)

Ms. Jordan reported that the drilling portion of the Dalton Well Project had been completed. She said the well, which had been partly funded by a grant from the Kootenai County Aquifer Protection District (APD), was 387 feet deep. She explained its output would help them to irrigate the RV park and, in time, would allow irrigation further to the south of the facility. She said the next phase was the connection of the irrigation system.

Mr. Johnson stated that they planned to approach the APD for additional funds, about \$10,000. He said he had approached their Chair and she had recommended he seek direction from the BOCC. He explained that the irrigation water used at the RV Park now was all City water and the related sewer fees were very expensive. He said providing their own irrigation would save money.

Fair Update (Discussion)

Ms. Jordan stated that the Fair’s final arena show would be announced this coming Monday. She said they were seeing strong pre-sales and announced the theme would be “Acres of Fun.” She said they would offer a new jet pack water stunt show, plus magic, hypnotists, Max the Robot, pig racing, the Rock Bottom Boys, local bands, dance teams, cheer teams and more. She confirmed that the \$1,000 Golden Tickets, for permanent lifetime admission were still available.

D. 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.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER LOCKE, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk