

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Commissioners' Status Update**  
**March 23, 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 Finance Director Dena Darrow, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiaramonte, Resource Management Office (RMO) Senior Program Manager Kimberli Riley, KCSO Captain Matthew Street, KCSO Sergeant William Klinkefus, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Operations Manager Greg Manley, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney R. David Ferguson, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Contractor Shawn Riley, Kootenai County Residents Myron Mills, M.D., M.P.H., Penelope Morris, Duane Rasmussen, and Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Jennifer Passaro. Commissioner Bill Brooks, Contractor Shawn Riley, KCSO Sergeant William Klinkefus and B&G Operations Manager Greg Manley attended via teleconference.

**A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

**B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):**

Chairman Fillios announce that the order of items on the agenda would be changed.

**C. Business (Discussion Items):**

**Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Marine Building**

Contractor Shawn Riley reminded the Commissioners that the bid for the Sheriff's Office Marine Pole Barn Building had been awarded to Ginno Construction for \$98,800. He explained that another \$9,000 would have had to have been added to provide a dog kennel and another \$23,000 for changes that would allow the building to be heated. He said these changes would have brought the project about \$32,000 over the bid. He added that another series of complications had arisen that would increase the cost even more, by about another \$30,000.

Mr. Riley stated that there was language included in the contract that would allow the County to withdraw from the project. He said he discussed this with Legal; it would need to be done through a Business Meeting.

Mr. Riley commented that he had spoken to the Sheriff's Office and they agreed. He recommended this be done by the Board. He stated that the County would not be out any money on the project.

There was general agreement with his suggestion.

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden entered the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

### **Budgeting for Fleet Management**

Resource Management Office (RMO) Senior Program Manager Kimberli Riley reported that a Fleet Management Meeting had been held on February 20, 2020 and had dealt with where expenses would be budgeted when a vehicle was transferred from one department to another.

Ms. Riley said they had concluded it would make sense to put all of these expenses in one place, so they could be tracked properly. She suggested setting up a Maintenance Line Item in the General Fund for these types of transactions. She additionally suggested putting a capital line item in as well so the general governmental vehicles would be funded by the BOCC and whether vehicles would be assigned to a specific department or placed in a general pool of vehicles.

Finance Director Dena Darrow commented that when surplus vehicles were sold at auction, the money could be set aside to service transferred vehicles. She suggested that the Board might consider setting aside \$5,000 or \$10,000 in the FY21 Budget as a line item to start funding that need.

Ms. Riley pointed out that such a fund already existed and had about \$50,000 in it.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan suggested a separate Budget meeting to review the proposal.

There was general agreement with the suggestions.

### **Myron Mills, M.D., M.P.H.; Local Testing for Corona Virus**

Chairman Fillios announced that several departments were viewing the meeting through livestream: EMS (Emergency Medical Services), KCSO, OEM (Office of Emergency Management) and Panhandle Health. He provided a phone number for the watchers to call in and ask questions.

Myron Mills, M.D., M.P.H. explained the purpose of his presentation was to offer some general information to assist the BOCC and other groups in making decisions during this difficult time. He described his background in medicine.

Dr. Mills started out by reminding everyone of the differences between a virus and a bacterium, how each reproduced and offered some examples of previous viral epidemics. He outlined the differences between COVID-19 and other viral illnesses such as SARS. He also gave details of the effects of COVID-19 on the human body.

Dr. Mills provided statistical data revealing how many people one person with COVID-19 would be expected to infect. He stressed that people who were showing no symptoms of the illness (asymptomatic) could still be carrying it and could still spread it. He also reminded everyone that, while children and young adults did not seem seriously endangered by the virus in general terms, they could still spread it to those more vulnerable. He went over related data, such as morbidity rates, proposed treatments,

reasons behind social distancing and quarantine requirements and the closure of schools and businesses. He discussed the progress of the illness in different patients.

Mr. Ferguson exited the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Dr. Mills cautioned against accepting reports of infection rates at face value, since some areas, both in the United States and elsewhere in the world, were not testing for COVID-19. He gave an example of San Bernadino County, which was bankrupt and so was not testing at all: they had no idea what their infection rate might actually be.

Dr. Mills commended the mayors of the cities who had closed bars and restaurants.

Mr. Braden commented that Legal was looking into whether the BOCC had the authority to close establishments in the unincorporated areas of the County. He added that Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jamila Holmes was working on the legal aspects of the situation and hoped to have additional guidance to offer to the Commissioners by the end of the day.

Ms. Riley exited the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Dr. Mills inquired how law enforcement was handling people who should be tested but refused to be tested. Chairman Fillios replied that Panhandle Health would need to answer that.

Panhandle Health Representative Laura Whalen described the testing process currently provided to the public. She indicated there were no plans to force citizens to undergo testing at this time.

Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Jennifer Passaro asked whether people who were or had recently been pregnant or suffered from degenerative diseases were especially vulnerable to COVID-19. Dr. Mills said this was true, because all of those conditions had a potential impact on the immune system.

Kootenai County Resident Scott Howard called in on the contact line and informed those assembled that he believed the business closures ordered at federal, state and local levels were unconstitutional.

Dr. Mills provided a graphic that illustrated the difference in the progress of the pandemic if no actions such as self-isolation or business closures were taken compared to the projections after precautions were taken. He pointed out that taking the recommended actions flattened the curve of the pandemic spread, which would allow the medical community's resources to cover the need. He remarked that the higher curve of infection shown on the chart which was possible if no actions were taken would see the medical resources become insufficient to the needs of the public, and possibly result in there not being enough hospital beds or enough equipment, such as ventilators, to go around.

Kootenai County Resident Duane Rasmussen asked how frequently updates on the situation would be provided.

Chairman Fillios reported that daily updates would be provided as press releases by the Emergency Operations Center, in conjunction with Panhandle Health. Commissioner Duncan confirmed that the releases would be provided around 4:15 p.m. each week day.

**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 additional public comment.

**E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

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

\_\_\_\_\_