

**Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Debriefing
May 20, 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 items. Also present were Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Civil Legal Assistant Barb Nyquist, KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, KCSO Lieutenant Michael McFarland, Resource Management Office (RMO) Senior Program Manager Kimberli Riley, BOCC Administrative Supervisor Leighanna Keiser, BOCC Administrative Secretary Teri Johnston, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Contractor Shawn Riley.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Items):**

Pre-Trial Summit

Commissioner Leslie Duncan reviewed what she had learned from the meeting regarding pre-trial treatment of offenders. She explained that the underlying theory was that a low-risk offender actually became more likely to re-offender the longer s/he spent confined. She reported that it was suggested that low-risk offenders be cited and released, rather than incarcerated for any significant period of time.

Staff Accountant Julina Hildreth entered the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Commissioner Duncan said other counties offered risk assessment procedures for offenders with the purpose of releasing those who presented little risk to the community. She noted that Kootenai County already had efficient pre-trial programs. Prosecutor Barry McHugh and KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger agreed.

Prosecutor McHugh pointed out that a number of processes were in place to enable this. He said one of the most important was that the Public Defender now regularly had an attorney present for a person's first court appearance. He explained this could help the accused to receive a lower bail amount.

Commissioner Duncan cautioned that, if the Idaho Supreme Court created legislation mandating pre-trial services, County representatives would need to be vocal in insuring it did not become an unfunded mandate forced on Kootenai County, since these needs were already being addressed here.

Prosecutor McHugh asked if the next meeting of the group would be held in Boise. Commissioner Duncan said there would be a meeting of the Kootenai County members of the group locally in June 2019 and that he would be welcome to attend.

Sheriff Wolfinger exited the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Justice Facilities

Commissioner Duncan reviewed the Board's decision to keep the Administrative Offices located in downtown Coeur d'Alene. She said she had received suggestions from several different groups that all County justice services be relocated into a new building near the Jail. She said she had researched the proposal and received an estimate that the cost would be about 45 million dollars. Commissioner Duncan remarked that this would probably require the County to ask the residents to vote for a bond. She pointed out that, if this were done, it would probably solve the County Administration's space concerns for about the next forty years. She added that she was not advocating for or against the idea; she was just bringing it to the Board for discussion.

Commissioner Bill Brooks commented that it was a good idea and bore further discussion but that it should not be considered for any sort of implementation this year. Chairman Fillios remarked that a prior Board had considered the plan and the consensus had been that the citizens would probably not approve a bond. Prosecutor McHugh agreed.

Chairman Fillios said he felt that taking 45 million dollars out of Fund Balance for a project like this would not be wise. The other Commissioners agreed.

It was generally agreed that the suggestion would receive additional attention in the future.

Business Meeting and Legal Opinion Procedures

Commissioner Duncan asked for clarification of the procedures followed to determine whether a given Business Meeting item needed to be reviewed by Legal. Civil Legal Assistant Barb Nyquist explained that it was the responsibility of the department head requesting the item to recognize when Legal needed to be involved and send the item to them.

Commissioner Duncan suggested that written guidelines to help people decide when to consult Legal would be helpful.

Prosecutor McHugh noted that Legal frequently receives requests with insufficient time allowed to process them. Ms. Nyquist agreed and stated that the attorneys should be allotted at least two weeks to fulfil requests. Prosecutor McHugh asked that, if a request needed to be fulfilled in less than two weeks, the requesting department head's liaison could verify its urgent nature. All three Commissioners agreed this request was reasonable. He also said he was willing to look into what tools other counties might be using to determine when Legal's assistance was needed.

Prosecutor McHugh, Ms. Nyquist and BOCC Administrative Secretary Teri Johnston exited the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Grant Application Process – Stonegarden Grant/RMO

KCSO Lieutenant Michael McFarland explained that the Stonegarden grant would provide funding coverage for overtime hours and equipment for duties specifically targeting drug smugglers and human traffickers. He said the money would come through Federal Homeland Security.

Resource Management Office (RMO) Senior Program Manager Kimberli Riley added that the overtime pay coverage would be calculated at the full, loaded rate. She said the amount of the grant would be \$83,350, spread over a period of two years. She also said the deadline to apply for the grant was May 29, 2019.

Commissioner Duncan noted that the item had already been placed on the agenda for the Business Meeting on May 21, 2019.

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 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
