

Minutes of Meeting
FY2020 Preliminary Budget Review – Coroner
May 24, 2019
1:00 p.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 Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiaramonte, Coroner Dr. Warren Keene, Chief Deputy Coroner Lynn Acebedo, Deputy Coroner JoAnn Porter, and Deputy Clerk Ronnie Davisson. Also present was Kootenai County Contractor Shawn Riley.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
- B. Introductions**
- C. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- D. Business:**

FY2020 Budget Review – Coroner (Discussion)

Coroner Dr. Warren Keene explained that when he took office in 2015, he had assessed the office situation and determined there was a need for a pathology lab, which he had requested each year for the past five years. He also explained that he had included office space remodeling in the budget, which had usually been cut down to design fees. Dr. Keene said that his budget was currently 0.4% of the County budget, and if the pathology lab (\$545,000) were to be approved, it would make up 0.8% of the budget.

Dr. Keene presented the Board with a letter from Yates Funeral Homes, which outlined their 30-day withdrawal notice from the coroner rotation. He explained that this was detrimental to the county because they relied on the funeral homes for transportation from the decedent's home to the funeral home, from the funeral home to the Spokane County Medical Examiner's Office, return trip and the final disposition. Further, he did not have enough staff to take over the transportation, nor did he have body coolers or a vehicle that could provide the transportation.

The Board and Dr. Keene discussed the pathology lab at length and the proposed costs and revenues associated with a pathology lab. Dr. Keene explained that if the pathology lab were to be constructed, he would consider offering the lab to surrounding counties to bring in revenue.

Dr. Keene presented his final request of On-Call pay, citing the fact that the Prosecutor's Office and KCSO gets on-call pay and wished to bring his office up to par; the on-call pay was \$250 a week for the deputy that was on call.

The Board had no further questions and no decisions were made.

E. 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 were no public comments.

F. Adjourn: Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Ronnie Davisson, Deputy Clerk
