

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**FY19 Budget Deliberations - Coroner**  
**May 30, 2018**  
**2:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Marc Eberlein, Commissioner Chris Fillios, and Commissioner Bob Bingham met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Clerk Jim Brannon, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Financial Performance & Compliance Senior Manager Kimberli Riley, Coroner Dr. Warren Keene, Deputy Coroners John Hunt and JoAnn Porter, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Director Shawn Riley, KCSO Detective Jerrie Northrup, and Deputy Clerk Ronnie Davisson.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Marc Eberlein called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.
- B. Introductions:** There were no introductions.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- D. Action:**

**Discussion with County Coroner Warren Keene and the Auditor's Staff Regarding FY19 Coroner's Budget Requests**

Clerk Jim Brannon presented a snapshot of the Coroner's FY19 Budget Request and said Coroner Dr. Warren Keene would have a slideshow presentation during the course of the meeting.

Dr. Keene provided an overview of his office and explained the statutory obligations of his department. He said FY19's Budget proposal had construction costs for the requested Pathology Lab and increases to his Operating Budget, noting the difference in construction costs between FY18 and FY19 budgets was 15%, without any design changes. He further explained the Pathology Lab would pay for itself within six years upon completion, the records would be better organized and searchable, and the office would be much safer. Dr. Keene also explained that every grant he had submitted for had been denied and he was cognizant, as both a taxpayer and an Elected Official, of the dilemma of spending taxpayer dollars and knowing the importance of being prepared. Dr. Keene then introduced KCSO Detective Jerrie Northrup and provided copies of letters coined by City of Coeur d'Alene and Spirit Lake in support of the Coroner Lab construction.

Mr. Northrup thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Coroner Lab and how it would affect the Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies the Coroner's Office serves. He said utilizing the Medical Examiner's Office in Spokane County had been working well for quite some time; however, due to increase of growth in both Spokane County and Kootenai County, issues were starting to arise. Mr. Northrup elaborated by explaining there were times that the detectives had been given anywhere from five to fifteen minutes notice before the start of an autopsy and said it was a function of his job to present at every autopsy, which was next to impossible with only a small time frame to arrive. He said because the schedule was so tight at the Medical Examiner's

Office, they were unable to wait for the Detectives to arrive before beginning the autopsy, and being present for the autopsy was of utmost importance for evidence fetching and keeping, nor was it for the benefit of the taxpayers to have the detectives wait all day in Spokane County until an autopsy could begin.

Dr. Keene discussed the New Program Request, which was new software to help modernize record keeping in the office, would help consult with pathologists in Boise and would make searching for records much easier as they would be digitized. Dr. Keene also pointed out the software was used statewide, citing ease of communication between other agencies.

Dr. Keene then discussed the Capital Request for the Coroner Lab. He explained the key cost drivers are professional services, transportation and personnel. Some of the professional services included were autopsy services (17% higher than the year prior), lab fees, and pathology services. He provided four phases of the project, with Phase I being design fees; Phase II remodel funding and construction costs; Phase III would introduce contract revenues and a contract pathologist; Phase IV would be the ability to advertise and recruit from ten northern counties for enhanced lab services. He concluded by stating the estimated net earnings from the Coroner Lab would pay for the lab in approximately 5.25 years.

To conclude the discussion, Dr. Keene said if the Board opted to cut the Coroner Lab, at some point it would have to be built and by delaying it one year, costs had already increased 15%.

The Board made no decisions.

- E. **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.

Chairman Eberlein adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

MARC EBERLEIN, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ronnie Davisson, Deputy Clerk

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