

**Minutes of Meeting
Public Defender
June 12, 2018
11:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Marc Eberlein, Commissioner Chris Fillios and Commissioner Bob Bingham met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Public Defender (PD) Anne C. Taylor, PD Administrative Supervisor Jamie Woods, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Financial Performance & Compliance Senior Manager Kimberli Riley, Staff Accountant Julina Hildreth and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present, from the State of Idaho Public Defense Commission, were Executive Director Kimberly Simmons and Region I Coordinator (Judicial Districts I & II) Aaron Freudenthal.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Marc Eberlein called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Action Items:**

Grant Discussion with Public Defender Anne C. Taylor

Public Defender Anne C. Taylor told the Board she wished to discuss the grant her department would receive and the way in which it would be spent. She said she would like to use a substantial part to fund staff and attorney positions. She introduced State of Idaho Public Defense Commission Executive Director Kimberly Simmons and asked her to speak to the Board regarding details of the grant and why it should be used to fund positions.

Ms. Taylor explained that the grant currently funds one attorney and a temporary secretary position. She said she would like to add another attorney, a legal assistant, increase a half-time social worker to full time, cover twenty percent of one investigator and extend their temporary secretary's assignment another six months. Chairman Eberlein inquired whether there was a need for computers, desks or other equipment for the new positions and if those needs would be supplied by the grant. PD Administrative Supervisor Jamie Woods said that the department had enough desk space but would need computers. Ms. Taylor replied she had not included a specific cost analysis for equipment for the positions. State of Idaho Public Defense Commission Region I Coordinator (Judicial Districts I & II) Aaron Freudenthal confirmed that the office expenses had not been broken out in the projection.

Ms. Simmons gave a brief overview of how the Public Defense Commission allots grant funds to different counties. She remarked that Kootenai County's Public Defenders have higher caseloads than recommended by current national standards. She said the State of Idaho has not yet created a firm set of standards of its own, but the Commission would recommend additional staffing for Kootenai County based on the available data. She added that she hoped to see State Standards set by the end of this year.

Commissioner Bob Bingham asked how much flexibility was permitted in using the grant funds. Ms. Simmons said that, while the County must state the intended use when applying for funds, if an immediate need arises after the grant was awarded, some re-purposing of money would be permitted. She said the Commission would expect the change to be reasonable and for it to be explained in the next year's grant request. Commissioner Bingham stated he felt it needed to be clearly understood that if the grant funds new positions, the existence of those positions were dependent on continued grant support.

Commissioner Bingham asked whether the Board was allowed to consider grant funding when determining Budget allocations. Ms. Simmons explained that supplanting Budget money using grant funds would reduce the County's chances of receiving grant funds in the future. However, she said that the Board could alter Budget amounts without the Commission viewing it as supplanting, if they provide valid reasons for the changes.

Chairman Eberlein asked when the grant funds would be dispersed. Mr. Freudenthal said the County would get a letter well before October 1, 2018 stating the amount the County would receive, but the actual date the money would be dispersed would be October 1, 2018. Ms. Darrow said the completion date of the Budget was in late August. Ms. Simmons concluded her remarks, stating she will recommend that the County's full grant request be approved when the Public Defense Commission meets next week.

- 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 was no public comment.

Chairman Eberlein adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

MARC EBERLEIN, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
