

Minutes of Meeting
FY19 Budget Deliberations
June 25, 2018
10:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Marc Eberlein, Commissioner Chris Fillios, and Commissioner Bob Bingham met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Financial Performance & Compliance Senior Manager Kimberli Riley, District Court Services Manager Marissa Garza, Coroner Dr. Warren Keene, Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, KCSO Administrative Assistant Tammy Exley, Buildings & Grounds Director Shawn Riley, Human Resources Director Skye Reynolds, BOCC Senior Financial Analyst Nanci Plouffe, and Deputy Clerk Ronnie Davisson. Also present were citizens Leslie Duncan and Judith Beaudet, and Deputy Sheriff's Association Representative Zach Sifford.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Marc Eberlein called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Action:**

Continuing Overview and General Discussion Regarding the FY19 Budget Process, Considerations, and Decisions

Commissioner Bob Bingham opened the discussion by expressing his desire to revisit the Indigent Fund (Fund 40). He said in FY2016, Fund 40 had approximately \$3.2 million in its Fund Balance, pointed out that it continued to build, and suggested discussing funding the projected Indigent request entirely out of the Fund Balance and not levy any portion. Clerk Jim Brannon said the Kootenai County Indigent Fund was recognized as one of the best Indigent Funds in the state, with most of the other Indigent Funds being maxed out and in the negative.

Civil Deputy Prosecutor Pat Braden entered the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Clerk Brannon then pointed out that Fund 40 was used to capture the support of state mandated medical or other needs for financially disadvantaged citizens that qualify for the program. Commissioner Bingham said that the Fund Balance had continued to build and pointed out the Operating Budget request was approximately \$794,000. Clerk Brannon agreed and stated it was down substantially for the third year in a row and said he felt as though County Assistance was being penalized for doing their jobs well with Commissioner Bingham's suggestion. Chairman Eberlein stated he believed Clerk Brannon deserved a big "Atta Boy!" for doing his job so well and getting the Indigent Fund under control, and then asked Mr. Braden to explain Fund 40.

Mr. Braden said Fund 40's purpose was to fund the County's obligations of medical and non-medical indigency. Commissioner Bingham said the levy request was approximately \$800,000, with \$3.2 million in the Fund Balance and stated it needed to be drawn down to an acceptable amount. Clerk Brannon pointed out that two years prior, the BOCC had

balanced the Budget on the backs of the Indigent Fund by way of \$777,000. He said County Assistance was not collecting on as many cases as they had previously because not as many cases were being approved. Clerk Brannon said the reason the Fund Balance was being built up was that County Assistance was making a more aggressive approach at collecting payments.

County Assistance Manager Shelly Amos entered the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Chairman Eberlein asked for the total amount spent out of Fund 40 in FY18 and Financial Performance & Compliance Senior Manager Kimberli Riley said it was \$695,651, explaining that Police Holds were in Fund 10, the General Fund, and those were \$284,996 year-to-date. Chairman Eberlein said that Fund 40 should not be drawn down too much because there was no way to know how many indigent cases would be approved. Commissioner Bingham said he felt as though the County had over collected for Fund 40 and levied too much, so it should be utilized for its purpose, as it was a Restricted Fund. Chairman Eberlein agreed with Commissioner Bingham's point and suggested using \$700,000 to fund the Operating Budget request, which would leave roughly \$2.5 million in Fund 40. Commissioner Bingham said he felt that the \$2.5 million was still excessive and did not see a reason why the entire request could not be funded out of Fund 40 and suggested taking the issue to Legal. Commissioner Bingham suggested even funding Public Defender out of Fund 40, stating that other counties were already doing that. Chairman Eberlein disagreed with that suggestion.

The Board agreed to use Fund 40 to fund Indigent Ops and Admin and directed Mr. Braden to review Police Holds.

Mr. Braden and Ms. Amos exited the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Commissioner Bingham inquired about an Urban Renewal District closure within Post Falls for approximately \$70,000. Ms. Riley said she did not know of any closures, but said if there would be a closure, the Assessor's Office would be looking into it.

Chairman Eberlein began to discuss the Facilities 5-Year Plan with B&G Director Shawn Riley; Mr. Riley stated his 5-Year Plan was divided between the Operating Budget and the Capital Budget. Ms. Riley asked the Board if they wished to fund the entire Facilities 5-Year Plan out of Fund Balance or if they wanted to fund just the Capital Budget portion. They opted to fund the Capital Budget portion.

Ms. Riley then asked the Board about the Fairgrounds allocation amount. She said she had not received word if the amount of \$175,000 would be lowered since the ADA requirement projects had been completed. Mr. Riley said the ADA projects would be near complete at the conclusion of FY18 and the Fair would have approximately \$45,000 remaining. Further, Mr. Riley said Fairgrounds General Manager Alexcia Jordan had mentioned they had received a donor for the lift and suggested the Board drop their allocation for the Fairgrounds to \$75,000. The Board agreed to cut the allocation to \$75,000, which was in line with the 2015 average.

Ms. Riley suggested the Board consider increasing their Contingency Funds, pointing out there was only \$250,000 in both Fund 10 Contingency and Fund 15 Contingency and traditionally, each one was overspent as capital crimes had been using most of the dollars. Commissioner Bingham suggested doubling Fund 15 Contingency, which would have Fund 15's Contingency equal to \$500,000 and Fund 10's Contingency equal to \$250,000.

The Board then discussed Personnel Requests and opted to cut the Paralegal – Public Defender, AT3 – Prosecutor and Legal Assistant – Prosecutor.

Civil Deputy Prosecutor Darrin Murphey entered the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Chairman Eberlein requested the addition of more budget meetings, asking for longer blocks of time. Clerk Brannon was amenable to more meetings and Chairman Eberlein said he would ask BOCC Administrative Supervisor Nancy Jones to add them to the schedule.

- 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.

Citizen Judith H. Beaudet wished to discuss overnight parking at the Fairgrounds for up to 72 hours and stated she had discovered a need for citizens to have access to the Fairgrounds for camping. She said she would be willing to sit down with a County Civil Attorney to discuss the issue further. Chairman Eberlein said he would call Ms. Beaudet later in the afternoon to discuss her concerns.

Chairman Eberlein adjourned the meeting at 11:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

MARC EBERLEIN, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Ronnie Davisson, Deputy Clerk
