

Minutes of Meeting
FY21 Final Budget Deliberations
July 16, 2020
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 items. Also present were Assessor Bela Kovacs, Chief Deputy Assessor Joe Johns, Assessor's Office Administrative Manager Reba Grytness, Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Human Resources (HR) Director Sylvia Proud, HR Generalist – Employee Relations Kimberley Van Slate, KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, KSCO Undersheriff Dan Mattos, KCSO Captains Kim Edmondson, Stuart Miller and Andy Deak, KCSO Lieutenant Kyle Hutchison, KCSO Administrative Assistant Tamara Exley, Chief Deputy Coroner Lynette Acebedo, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiamonte, Court Services Director Marissa Garza, Court Services Manager Kally Young, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was University of Idaho Extension Office 4-H Educator Sharla Wilson.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:21 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action):**

FY21 Budget Deliberations – Final Balancing

Finance Director Dena Darrow reported that the last round of compensation changes had placed the budget in deficit again by \$520,430. She notes the changes included COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for both sworn and general pay plan employees and one matrix step for sworn employees. She offered a list of cuts that could be made to offset the deficit.

After some discussion, Chairman Fillios asked department heads whether they would prefer to have new positions or increases for their current staff.

Court Services Director Marissa Garza stated that her department needed the additional personnel. Commissioner Leslie Duncan said that Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weed/Snowgroomers Director Nick Snyder had asked her to say he also needed the additional staff.

Negotiations and proposed adjustments followed, particularly focused on the needs of the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Fillios suggested that the PaperClip replacement software be paid for out of Fund Balance.

KCSO Captain Kim Edmondson proposed freezing certain open positions within the Sheriff's Office, while retaining some flexibility to hire for any critically needed slots and leaving others frozen, based on their needs throughout the year.

Commissioner Duncan suggested that a \$15,000 surplus which had resulted from the latest series of changes be placed into the Assessor's Budget for litigation expenses. She asked if the social media archiving could be taken out of the Sheriff's Office Budget and moved to the BOCC, so that the service could be used by all departments. KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger agreed.

Ms. Darrow stated that, at this time, they had allowed a 2% COLA for General Pay Plan and Solid Waste employees, 2% for Elected Officials, 1.8% COLA plus 1 step on the matrix for sworn staff.

Undersheriff Mattos expressed dissatisfaction with the pay adjustments offered to KCSO staff.

Ms. Darrow reported that the Budget figures were once more balanced. She said that, if the Board were satisfied, the numbers could be entered into the system. She stated that her department could then prepare the public hearing documents and return before the Board on July 31, 2020 to present the Preliminary Balanced Budget. She noted the information would then be posted in the local newspaper.

Chairman Fillios indicated he was willing to further discuss KCSO's requests. Ms. Proud offered additional suggestions.

Chairman Fillios offered the participants a break. The meeting went into recess at 2:18 p.m.

Chairman Fillios called the meeting back into session at 2:33 p.m.

Ms. Darrow reported the updated figures based on the proposed changes. She suggested that they retain the previously stated pay adjustments but add a bonus pool for General Pay Plan employees at the end of FY2020. She confirmed that the Budget had an estimated amount of \$15,756 surplus, which would be allocated to the Assessor's Litigation Account, 8251.

Chairman Fillios confirmed that these figures reflected a 0% tax increase.

Commissioner Bill Brooks moved that the Board tentatively accept the Budget balance as shown at this time. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks:	Aye
Commissioner Duncan:	Nay
Chairman Fillios:	Aye

The motion carried.

Commissioner Duncan stated that her objection was that she did not feel the County should be giving any raises at all this year.

- 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 were no public comments.
- E. **Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
