

Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Status Update
August 10, 2020
9:00 a.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 Treasurer Steve Matheson, Deputy Finance Director Keith Taylor, Resource Management Office (RMO) Senior Program Manager Kimberli Riley, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Contractor Shawn Riley, North Idaho Fair General Manager Alexcia Jordan and University of Idaho Extension 4-H Educator Sharla Wilson. Ms. Riley and Ms. Wilson were present via teleconference.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):

Chairman Fillios suggested that the Executive Session be moved to the end of the meeting. No objections were voiced.

C. Business:

Property Tax Relief Program (Discussion)

Commissioner Leslie Duncan reported that the BOCC had sent a letter of intent regarding inclusion in this program. She said she had hoped to get written clarification from the Treasury Department to see if the program was legal in their eyes or followed their guidance. She stated that the Governor had issued an Executive Order on Thursday, August 6, 2020 which indicated written confirmation would not be made available.

Commissioner Duncan noted that the Order did include the information that, "U.S. Treasury guidance states that, 'as a matter of administrative convenience, the entire public health and public safety payroll costs could be assumed to be substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.'" She said that despite this, and other assurances included in the Governor's statement, she was still uncertain about the ultimate results of accepting the funds. She expressed her concern that the County would be required to pay the money back at a later date due to some administrative error caused by unclear instructions.

Treasurer Steve Matheson commented that he did not know, with certainty, what would happen if the County accepted the funds. He added that no one really knew how it would turn out.

Commissioner Duncan said she would like the Board to vote on whether the County should remain signed up for the program before the budget is finalized.

Treasurer Matheson stated that the County could receive \$10 million, but the amount might be more. He explained that the fund was oversubscribed and, if other counties dropped out due to the same sort of issues Commissioner Duncan raised, more money would be available to those that remained. He remarked that there was risk involved in accepting the funds and risk involved in rejecting them.

Commissioner Duncan said the deadline for a final decision was August 26, 2020, when the Budget would be finalized. She added that she had asked the Auditor's Office to provide updated levy rates, based on acceptance of the tax relief funds, so the Board could offer the information on social media for public feedback.

Commissioner Bill Brooks said he would be comfortable accepting the assurances in the Executive Order and participating in the program. He added that he would prefer to know exactly what amount the County would receive. He voiced his support for providing the information on levy rates on the County's social media.

Chairman Fillios commented that he would be reluctant to accept the funds without some further assurance in writing.

Treasurer Matheson remarked that, during an open conference call a week ago, the Governor and his staff repeatedly stated that they were "extremely confident" in their interpretation of the information and that "The U.S. Treasury and the White House would not be coming forward with any more written guidance."

Pending Items Status Review – List Attached (Discussion)

Romer House

Commissioner Duncan stated that Julienne Dance had two more fundraiser events planned. She said that she and Contractor Shawn Riley had discussed this.

Mr. Riley indicated that there had been some difficulty ensuring that instructions were followed during the previous fundraiser. He suggested that someone be tasked with assuring that no one goes on to the porch or tries to access the building's electricity. He said the person should be empowered to shut down the event if the people refused to comply. He stated that the August 14 event was to be a concert on the grounds and the August 18 event was to be another tour of the house for possible donors.

Mr. Riley added that he had been investigating the permits and other procedures that would be required should the County decide to tear the building down. He said an asbestos test would cost about \$1,200.

Commissioner Brooks stated that, contrary to rumors being circulated, he was not considering changing his mind about leasing the building. He confirmed he was still opposed to any lease of the Romer House.

Citizen Advisory Committee

Commissioner Brooks said he had begun work on a statement of the intended scope of the committee and its bylaws.

Fire Station at Fairgrounds

Chairman Fillios reported that Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney R. David Ferguson had received the lease and it was under review.

North Idaho Fair General Manager Alexcia Jordan said that the Fair Board also planned to review the lease at their meeting tomorrow night.

University of Idaho Extension New Home

Mr. Riley stated that University of Idaho Extension 4-H Educator Sharla Wilson said that the old Welch Comer building at 350 Kathleen Avenue in Coeur d'Alene would fulfill their space needs. He said he had toured it with Phil Boyd last week. He reported that Mr. Boyd had indicated he would be willing to make some modest changes to the site to better suit the Extension's needs.

Ms. Wilson said the Extension would like to take the entire building. She added that she had been told Welch Comer wanted about \$8,000 per month for rent.

Mr. Riley commented that Mr. Boyd would be interested in a longer term lease.

Chairman Fillios concluded with the statement that Commissioner Duncan and Mr. Riley would begin negotiation for the full 6,200 square foot space with Mr. Boyd.

Body Scanner

Commissioner Brooks reported that KCSO would be considerably overspent on the inmate medical care budget at the Jail. He said they would have to handle that issue before they could arrange funding for the scanner.

BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe confirmed that the Jail was coming out about \$700,000 over budget. She remarked that the Sheriff's Office might still find the funds for both the overage and the scanner if they were willing to look in other parts of the overall KCSO budget.

Facilities Expansion

Mr. Riley commented that this item was about the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for the new building. He said he had gotten it back from Legal and it was ready to go. He explained it would be advertised in the newspaper on two consecutive Mondays, as statute required. He added that he would keep the Commissioners informed on the schedule and progress.

Mr. Riley remarked that he and Commissioner Duncan thought the new building should be called the Kootenai County Attorney Center, since there was already a Justice Center and a Court House. He said he felt this would avoid confusion for the public.

PAC Airport Lease

Commissioner Duncan stated this item was directly related to their discussion about the Armory planned for this afternoon, so there was nothing to report at the moment.

State of the County 8/25

No additional information was given.

Review of Meeting with Building Representatives

Chairman Fillios said he, Community Development Director David Callahan and Senior Building Inspector Christina Garland had met with a group of builders a week and a half ago. He explained they had addressed turnaround time on permit requests and looked for ways to expedite inspections. He stated that the BOCC had authorized Community Development to hire an additional inspector about two weeks ago. He added that Ms. Garland and her coworkers would try to alert the builders ahead of time for inspections being scheduled during the construction phase.

KCEMSS

Chairman Fillios reported they had met for a final budget review and EMS had decided not to take any of the subsidies from the Federal government property tax relief program. He said they would take the full 3% property tax allowed, which would be about \$180,000. He noted that they did have some additional money coming in from other sources, in the amount of roughly \$65,000.

Chairman Fillios announced that there was a new director, Bill Keeley.

Weekly Calendar Review Items – List Attached (Discussion)

Chairman Fillios stated these items had been sufficiently covered under item three.

Kootenai County Facilities

Chairman Fillios stated that the Board would now move back to cover agenda item one.

Commissioner Duncan moved that the Board enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(c). Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Aye

Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:39 a.m.

Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(c) to acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency. (Closed Session – Discussion)

Decisions/Direction (Open Meeting – Action Item)

The Board exited Executive Session at 10:10 a.m.

Commissioner Duncan moved that the Board exit Executive Session with staff to proceed as discussed. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Aye

Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

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 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
