

**Minutes of Meeting  
Commissioners' Status Update  
August 17, 2020  
11:00 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, Chief Deputy Treasurer Laurie Thomas, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiamonte, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Maintenance Supervisor Tom Reed, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Contractor Shawn Riley, KMPO (Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization) Executive Director Glenn Miles, University of Idaho Extension 4-H Educator Sharla Wilson and Kootenai County Resident Erin Barnard.

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. **Business:**

**KMPO Board Request – Local Option Vehicle Registration Fee Ballot Question (Action)**

KMPO (Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization) Executive Director Glenn Miles reported that his organization intended to request that a question be placed on the ballot in the next election. He reviewed the growth of Kootenai County from 1970 to the present and included projections through 2041. He explained that KMPO would like to add a \$50 per vehicle charge for registration, with the funds collected intended for repair and improvement of local road infrastructure. He said this charge would be levied for twenty years.

In response to a question from Commissioner Leslie Duncan, Mr. Miles confirmed that the ballot question would require only a simple majority vote to pass, not a supermajority. He noted that both the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce had unanimously endorsed this proposal.

Chairman Fillios stated that the item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting agenda.

Mr. Miles exited the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

**Fund Balance Allocation for National Academy of Sciences Study of Coeur d'Alene Lake (Discussion)**

Chairman Fillios reminded those present that he had suggested that the County take on some of the expense of this study of Lake Coeur d'Alene in one of the budget meetings. He said that the estimated cost of the study is now projected to be about \$775,000. He stated that he had suggested the County put \$200,000 toward the project, in recognition of the vital role the Lake plays in the County's economic landscape.

Commissioner Bill Brooks and Commissioner Duncan expressed some concerns about the project and indicated they would like some additional information.

Chairman Fillios acknowledged their concerns and asked that the item be placed on next week's Business Meeting for further examination. No objections were voiced.

**Interest in Potential Purchase of Armory Land (Discussion)**

Chairman Fillios announced that he had been notified that a private person was interested in purchasing the Armory land at the Airport and donating it to the County. He said this person had expressed support for placing Hayden Deputies, Detectives and the K-9 Units at that location and had spoken to a realtor about buying the land.

Chairman Fillios stated he would discuss the offer with Legal.

**Underground Storage Tank – Jail (Action)**

Contractor Shawn Riley reported that he and Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Maintenance Supervisor Tom Reed had discussed the underground storage tank project. He said he felt they were nearing the end of the process. He explained that the County could execute an environmental covenant, which would require full disclosure of potential contamination of the ground should the land ever be sold. This agreement would be filed with the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) and updated each year.

Mr. Riley stated that the other option was to continue digging down to eight or nine feet and sending another soil sample for testing. He said that if they found the soil at that depth was still contaminated, they would not be able to remove any further material without compromising the structural integrity of the building.

Mr. Riley suggested that the covenant be drafted, sent to the DEQ and then brought before the Board for approval.

Finance Director Dena Darrow suggested that ICRMP (Idaho Counties Risk Management Program) be consulted to find out whether the covenant might affect the County's insurance coverage in some way. Mr. Riley said he would investigate that.

Mr. Reed exited the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

**Property Tax Relief Update – Urban Renewal Districts (URD) Figures (Discussion)**

Ms. Darrow provided the Commissioners a spreadsheet laying out the different aspects of the Governor's Public Safety Grant Initiative for Cities and Counties. She reviewed the information provided: The Governor's Executive Order 2020-15, statements received June 30, 2020 and August 10, 2020 from the U.S. Treasury, input from the Idaho State Tax Commission on August 13, 2020 and comments and concerns from the Auditor's Office. She explained the potential impact on several areas: public safety payroll expenses, the amount to be distributed to participating cities and counties, the authoritative guidance

received from government entities, the impact on future levy rates and the implementation timeline.

Ms. Darrow drew attention to potential risk for the taxpayers in enrolling in the program: if the program was deemed illegal, the County would have to pay the money back, which would effectively require taking the entire forgone balance of \$10 million. She explained there was the additional risk that if a future audit found there had been inappropriate use of federal funds, future federal funds for the Airport and other programs in the County could be placed at risk.

The Commissioners agreed that there were many areas of concern.

Ms. Darrow also touched upon the effect participation in the program could have on URD (Urban Renewal Districts) in the County.

### **Kootenai County Facilities Purchase and Lease**

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 11:34 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 11:51 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.

### **Pending Items Status Review – List Attached (Discussion)**

#### **Romer House**

Chairman Fillios reported that there were no problems with the concert on Friday, August 14, 2020. He said that everyone followed the rules and avoided the steps and the porch.

Mr. Riley said that he had begun looking into the demolition permit. He stated that they would have to notify Avista and the water and sewer district. He added that he was going to hold off on getting the asbestos test for the time being.

Commissioner Duncan suggested that the Music Conservatory people be invited to a meeting in September to determine what would happen with the property. Commissioner Brooks and Chairman Fillios agreed.

#### **Citizen Advisory Committee**

Commissioner Brooks said he had nothing new to report on this item.

#### **Fire Station at Fairgrounds**

Chairman Fillios stated there was nothing new to report on this item.

#### **U of I Extension new home**

Chairman Fillios said the Board was in the process of negotiating for a possible location for the Extension, but nothing further could be announced at this time.

#### **Body Scanner**

Chairman Fillios reported that KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos had indicated that they had found the money to buy the body scanner for the Jail.

Ms. Darrow confirmed that she had also been told this.

Commissioner Brooks said he would talk with the Undersheriff and get updated information.

#### **Facilities Expansion**

Mr. Riley confirmed that the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for the architect would be published in the paper for the first time on August 31, 2020.

#### **PAC Airport Lease**

Commissioner Duncan remarked that settling this question would have to wait until the fate of the Armory Building was decided.

#### **State of the County**

BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones reviewed the current agenda for the State of the County Address on August 25, 2020.

- 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 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk

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