

**Minutes of Meeting
Coroner
September 30, 2020
1:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Coroner Warren Keene, M.D., Prosecutor Barry McHugh and BOCC Administrative Secretary Chandra Newberry.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action):**

Medical Examiner Update

Coroner Warren Keene, M.D. reminded the Board that he had sent all Elected Officials an email at the end of July to inform them that the Spokane Medical Examiner's (M.E.) Office had said they were not going to renew their contract with Kootenai County. He announced that, with encouragement from KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger and Post Falls Police Department Captain Greg McLean, the Spokane M.E. had recently indicated they were willing to reconsider the decision.

Dr. Keene described some of the issues his office had with Spokane over the years and some of his suggestions for provisions for the new contract. He said he would include any additional requests from KCSO and the Prosecutor's Office.

Dr. Keene stated he had investigated other groups that could provide access to board certified forensic pathologists, in case a new agreement could not be reached. He said he would be willing to engage in an RFP (Request for Proposals) process with the other groups, if the Board wished. He provided information on the general fees and related expenses that some different providers would charge.

Dr. Keene said he planned to send an email on Monday, October 5, 2020 to the different departments in the County that would be affected by this situation. He added that he would seek input from the Spokane M.E. Office as well, before drafting anything.

In response to questions from the Commissioners, Dr. Keene offered some details of the process of ordering an autopsy and some problems that have arisen with Spokane in the past.

Dr. Keene assured the Board that he would provide them with copies of any MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) prior to submitting it. He added that it would be sent to Legal for review also.

Prosecutor Barry McHugh expressed his concerns for the possible impact this issue could have on his department. He explained that his budget would be affected by charges for preparation, travel and testimony. He remarked that his office had been satisfied with their relationship with the Spokane M.E. office and expressed his hope that the contract could be successfully renegotiated.

All three Commissioners encouraged Dr. Keene to proceed as he had suggested.

- 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 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
