

**Minutes of Meeting  
Railroad Quiet Zones  
October 18, 2018  
9:30 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 BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Post Falls City Engineer Bill Melvin.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Marc Eberlein called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**Railroad Quiet Zones (Action)**

BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe introduced Post Falls City Engineer Bill Melvin.

Ms. Plouffe provided the Commissioners with a written presentation detailing the rules governing designation of railroad quiet zones, links to useful sites, and maps showing the railroad crossings in Kootenai County. She explained that the major requirements for a quiet zone were that it had to extend at least half of one mile in length and must have flashing lights and gates in place at each public crossing. She said that the zone must be evaluated and the Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) must be less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT). She added that, if these requirements are met, the County would also have to notify the Federal Railroad Administration and all applicable railroads and place “No Train Horn” signs at each affected crossing. Ms. Plouffe went over the maps, indicating which areas could be considered for quiet zones.

Athol Mayor Mary Zichko entered the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Ms. Zichko said she had received complaints from residents about horns and about trains running their engines at night. She asked how quiet zones were managed.

Ms. Plouffe said that the County could request quiet zones to be put in place for 10 p.m. through 7 a.m. or as twenty-four hour zones, but that it would not affect the running engines, only the horns. Ms. Plouffe told the Commissioners that there are places in Athol that have to endure the passage of up to sixty-six trains a day. Ms. Zichko reported that traffic is also a problem in Athol and suggested that an overpass might be needed in at one intersection because people regularly are caught there for fifteen minutes or more due to the trains.

Chairman Eberlein suggested that a Commissioner be chosen to talk to Legal and research the issue. He remarked that Commissioner Bob Bingham was the logical choice since he is on the KMPO (Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization) Board.

Commissioner Bingham agreed to work on it but reminded those assembled that Kootenai County does not have jurisdiction within any of the city limits, so a multi-jurisdictional approach will have to be taken to the common problem.

Commissioner Chris Fillios moved that the Board appoint Commissioner Bingham to investigate the issue of railroad quiet zones. Commissioner Bingham seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Bingham: Aye

Commissioner Fillios: Aye

Chairman Eberlein: 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 was no public comment.

**E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Eberlein adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

MARC EBERLEIN, CHAIRMAN

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

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