

Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Status Update
October 19, 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, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden, 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, Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Madison Hardy and Kootenai County Residents Sandy White, Erin Barnard and Summer Bushnell. Ms. Bieze, Mr. Braden and Ms. Jordan were present via teleconference.

- 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:**

Resolution 2020-69 Alternative Forms of Government (Discussion)

Commissioner Bill Brooks explained this resolution would allow the creation of a nine person commission to investigate whether Kootenai County should consider changing from its current form of government to a different one, as permitted by Idaho Code. He said he wanted to ensure that the other Commissioners were informed about the potential study.

Chairman Fillios and Commissioner Leslie Duncan acknowledged receipt of the information.

Joining Other Local Jurisdictions in Educational Campaign (Action)

Chairman Fillios reported the Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer had inquired whether Kootenai County would join the advertising campaign promoting use of masks.

Finance Director Dena Darrow and Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze agreed to present an inquiry through the COVID Team.

Chairman Fillios stated that Kootenai Health, Northwest Specialty Hospital, Heritage Health, the City of Coeur d'Alene, the City of Post Falls, the City of Hayden, NIC (North Idaho College) and school districts 271 and 273 had agreed to donate money to the program.

Commissioner Duncan remarked that the proposal would already be very well funded if all of those entities were participating. She said she was not interested in committing County funds to the project.

Commissioner Brooks said he was not comfortable with the methodology proposed for the advertising campaign. He said he would need to know who was in ultimate charge, how the leaders were chosen, how much money was involved and how the advertising agency had been chosen before he would be willing to consider the proposal.

Chairman Fillios commented that he had mixed feeling about joining the effort. It was generally agreed that Kootenai County would not join the campaign at this time. No motion was required.

Audio/Visual System (Discussion)

BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones reminded the Commissioners that the audiovisual systems in the Administrative Building had been experiencing problems for some time. She reported that Community Development in particular had been having problems with recording their meetings. She asked the Commissioners to consider what sort of updates to the system might be necessary.

Treasurer Steve Matheson exited the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Pending Items Status Review – List Attached (Discussion)

Romer House

Chairman Fillios confirmed that an escrow had been opened and the closing date was scheduled in twenty-one days.

Ms. Jones reported that North Idaho Title had been chosen as the closing agent. She added that Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden was drafting the deed and that authorization to sign the deed would be determined in tomorrow's Business Meeting.

Citizen Advisory Committee

Commissioner Brooks said he would take this topic up in November.

Fire Station at Fairgrounds

Chairman Fillios stated that Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney R. David Ferguson had reviewed the documents and returned them to the Fire Station's attorney. He said they were waiting for a response.

University of Idaho Extension New Home

Commissioner Duncan stated that the lease would be on the agenda for tomorrow's Business Meeting.

Facilities Expansion

Commissioner Duncan reminded those present there would be a meeting on October 21 on this topic.

PAC Airport Lease

Commissioner Duncan said that Airport Director Steven Kjergaard and Wally Jacobson had been discussing this issue. She noted that Mr. Jacobson was developing terms for the lease.

Office of Emergency Management Relocation

Contractor Shawn Riley reminded those present that there would be a meeting Tuesday morning to review progress on this. He said they expected to receive the permit within a couple of days and noted that Community Development Director David Callahan had waived the permit fee.

- 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.

Mr. Braden stated that he had finished drafting the deed for the Romer House and would send it to the Commissioners to review later today.

Summer Bushnell, 5006 East Portside Court in Post Falls, asked who would be on the committee investigating alternative forms of government and how much money the County would spend on this. She remarked that she had no objections to such a committee as long as the participants were volunteers and no County funds were expended.

Commissioner Brooks said they did not have any more information than had been offered earlier in the meeting because the official request to create the committee had not yet been submitted.

Ms. Bushnell also asked whether the amount proposed for the advertising campaign for wearing of masks was \$50,000 and whether that was a per-participant amount or a total cost.

Chairman Fillios said he had been informed that the total cost would be about \$50,000 and it would be split among the participants.

Ms. Bushnell remarked that she felt the message about wearing masks was already well communicated by multiple entities and expressed concern that the advertisement not constitute "shaming" rather than educational input.

Ms. Bushnell asked what the County's involvement was with the proposed Huetter Development.

Chairman Fillios responded that Kootenai County was not directly involved with the project; it was a joint annexation movement for Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls.

Commissioner Duncan confirmed that the property involved fell jointly into the ACIs (Area of City Impact) of both Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls and suggested that Ms. Bushnell approach representatives of the cities for additional information.

Sandra White, 939 West D Court in Hayden, asked what the timeline of the committee would be and how the committee members would be chosen.

Commissioner Brooks stated that he envisioned a timeline of six to nine months and that the committee members would be selected by the BOCC.

Ms. White asked for additional information of the advertising campaign to promote wearing masks.

Chairman Fillios stated that the Board had decided not to participate in the project at this time.

Finance Director Dena Darrow exited the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Chairman Fillios said he would send information regarding the advertising campaign to both Ms. White and Ms. Bushnell.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
