

Minutes of Meeting
Road Naming Discussion
April 17, 2013
11:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Todd Tondee, Commissioner Dan Green and Commissioner Jai Nelson met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were 9-1-1 Director Brad Coughenour, GIS Manager David Christianson, Community Development Planning Assistant Elizabeth Anderson, Community Development Director Scott Clark, Northern Lakes Fire Inspector Tyler Drechsel, Jacklin Land Company Property Manager Bruce Cyr, and Deputy Clerk Brandie Bradley.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

B. Introductions: There were no introductions made.

C. Changes to the Agenda: There were no changes made to the agenda.

D. Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

E. New Business:

Chairman Tondee explained that this meeting was being held to clear up some confusion regarding County Ordinance 301, which outlines the regulations in regard to naming streets within Kootenai County, the Board is in the process of redrafting the Unified Land Use Code, and this Ordinance will be incorporated into this document.

GIS Manager David Christianson reviewed with the Board the current challenges that exist within this Ordinance. Mr. Christianson advised the Board that, currently, similar names (such as River Ranch and conjunctions like RiverRanch) are not allowed. Common names that are excessively used, such as Pine Cone, Pine Tree, Pine Grove, are discouraged as well. Mr. Christianson advised that the more unique the road name is, the easier it is to locate a particular road within a geographical area.

9-1-1 Director Brad Coughenour advised that it can be very difficult for 9-1-1 dispatchers to ascertain an individual's location when common street names are assigned, especially if they are in the same common area and have the same number sequences. Mr. Coughenour explained that land lines will populate an address for emergency dispatchers, but this address is not always accurate, as the address provided is the address on file with the phone company, and may be an outdated address. When an individual calls from a cell phone, a GPS coordinate is provided to the emergency dispatcher, but cell phone providers are currently only required to provide coordinates within a proximity of 300 meters or the nearest cell phone tower. Often, this coordinate will be inaccurate, especially in rural areas where water is involved. The best information regarding location is from the caller, but only if they are able to provide complete street names, street numbers, or crossroads. Situations of common names, number sequences and common crossroads can make it very difficult to locate the correct address, and sometimes city the caller is in. It is not uncommon for common street names with like crossroads to be found within different cities. Mr. Coughenour advised that, currently, accuracy in locating individuals has a success rate of at least ninety nine percent (99%), but the potential still exists for errors and time delays with the current guidelines.

Mr. Christianson recommended that the Board consider stricter guidelines in regard to similar names and spellings, the use of suffixes and plurals as street names, restricting the occurrences of common names used throughout the County and individual areas, or in conjunction with other names. Mr. Christianson also requested that names that are difficult to pronounce or communicate, such as foreign names, be avoided as well as “cutesy names” like Thisa Way or Thata Way. Mr. Christianson expressed the need for a system that is logical and easily communicated.

Mr. Christianson suggested the establishment of a review committee that includes members from 9-1-1 Operations, GIS Mapping, and Planning and Zoning, to discuss submittals for Street Names and ensure that they meet the regulations and are appropriate.

Jacklin Land Company Property Manager Bruce Cyr addressed the Board and stated that while he understands the concerns and potential risks facing the community, he feels that there should be some flexibility with the changes to the Ordinance. Mr. Cyr expressed his appreciation of the challenges that emergency personnel face, and support for the implementation of a review committee that can provide insight to the applicants in regard to denied requests.

In closing, the Board provided direction to Mr. Christianson to draft and submit the recommendations for review, so that the current Ordinance can be redrafted before inclusion into the new Unified Land Use Code.

- F. Staff Reports:** There were no staff reports.
- G. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CLIFFORD T. HAYES, CLERK

BY: _____
Brandie Bradley, Deputy Clerk