

Minutes of Meeting
Commissioners' Debriefing
May 29, 2013
2:00 p.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 was Deputy Clerk Nancy Jones.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

B. Introductions: There were no introductions made.

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

D. New Business:

Possible agenda items for an upcoming meeting regarding the Grant Management Office were discussed. The Board determined that they would present information to clarify the functions and limitations of the office, with a limited description of specific processes and procedures. All departments that utilize grants, as well as representatives from the Auditor's Department, will be encouraged to attend. Chairman Tondee agreed to complete the preparations and scheduling of this presentation.

The Board discussed a request from the Fair Board to include \$19,312 in the FY2014 budget, to specifically address upgrades that are necessary to bring the Fairgrounds into compliance with ADA codes. Commissioner Nelson referenced portions of Idaho Code (title 22, chapter 2) that pertain to the Fairground's usage of fund balance, foundation, and County tax dollars, with regard to funding operations and upgrades. Commissioner Nelson will follow up with the Fair Board to answer questions and help direct them in their final budget planning for FY2014.

Commissioner Green stated that he had recently spoken with Mercer Health and Benefits Senior Associate Lois Morris, who made a suggestion that the County consider alternatives to participation in the Blue Cross Healthy Measures program. Ms. Morris indicated that the cost of participation may outweigh the benefits of the program. Commissioner Green noted that, while expensive, a third party health care administrator is necessary for a self-funded insurance program, and that research indicates that the self-funded mechanism remains the best way to manage insurance costs. Commissioner Green agreed to follow up with Ms. Morris, to inquire as to the status of insurance negotiations for FY2014 and determine when she will be bringing a proposal forward for Board consideration.

Commissioner Green stated that he has had several discussions with David Carroll in regard to the proposed Public Defender study. Mr. Carroll has stated that it might be premature for the County to move forward with the study. Because of pending legislation that may affect many levels of the Public Defender system on a statewide level, Mr. Carroll advised that completion of the study would not be a prudent expenditure at this time. The Board discussed potential changes to the Public Defender and Juvenile Court systems, and Chairman Tondee noted the need to review the conflict attorney structure, as well, as changes are effected. Commissioner Green agreed to ask Mr. Carroll for a written recommendation that details his findings, and also agreed to follow up with Attorney Peter Erbland to ensure any necessary changes are made to the Resolution associated with the study (which states specific time frames for completion). The Board discussed the timing of changes that might be associated with the proposed legislation, the possibility of revisiting this issue in the future, and the fiscal considerations of making widespread adjustments to the existing Public Defender system.

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

Commissioner Nelson asked the Board to consider the use of foregone funds in association with the Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System (KCEMSS). The Board discussed the reasons behind an anticipated decrease in revenue next year, and the need to use fund balance monies as a primary funding source, when possible. Commissioner Nelson stated that KCEMSS will be asking for the full three percent (3%) allowable increase for FY2014. The Board was clearly opposed to the use of foregone funds.

Commissioner Nelson shared that a Request for Proposal (RFP) has been completed with regard to the requested office transfer between the Treasurer and County Assistance Offices. The Board discussed the purpose for this request, including security concerns that were raised when this change was first proposed in 2004. The Board questioned whether or not those concerns (regarding the location of the Treasurer's Office) would be sufficiently addressed by moving them to the space currently occupied by County Assistance. They also discussed how this request overlaps with portions of the Facility Master Plan, and whether or not it would be fiscally responsible to move these offices when other changes might be pending within the administrative building (including the addition of enhanced security, and the possibility of moving the Reprographics Department). Due to the fluid nature of these corresponding projects and the cost associated with the office transfer, the Board decided to deny the request at this time, since the existing spaces are sufficient until a larger scope remodel is warranted within the administration building.

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 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CLIFFORD T. HAYES, CLERK

BY: _____
Nancy A. Jones, Deputy Clerk