

Minutes of Meeting
Quarterly Fire Protection Districts Meeting
August 26, 2013
10:30 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Pro Tem Dan Green and Commissioner Jai Nelson met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Northern Lakes Fire Commissioner Larry Clark, Fire Chief Dean Marcus, Fire Inspector Tyler Drechsel, Eastside Fire Protection District Chief Doug Allman, and Deputy Clerk Patti Marland-Stevens. Chairman Todd Tondee was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Pro Tem Green called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.
- B. Introductions:** There were no introductions made.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** Fire Inspector Tyler Drechsel requested a discussion on the Road Agreement.
- D. Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.

E. New Business

Chairman Pro Tem Green started a discussion regarding the usefulness of these meetings. Fire Chief Dean Marcus stated that he was unsure of the need of meeting on a regular basis, but expressed interest in continuing the agenda item format. Mr. Marcus acknowledged there are times when there is a project that requires regular meetings, but also times of inactivity. Concern was expressed by those present regarding other districts not attending. Chairman Pro Tem Green expressed his concern with removing the scheduled meetings from the calendar, noting that meetings can more easily be cancelled when not needed than they can be added to the Board's already tightly scheduled calendar. Fire Commissioner Larry Clark noted that it is the responsibility of those present to remind the other districts of the meeting and their expected attendance. Commissioner Nelson established that the Fire Districts, as a group, hold their own meetings collectively for purposes of communication, and that there is generally good attendance at those meetings. Kootenai County 9-1-1 also attends these meetings and many issues are dealt with through that process.

Mr. Clark stated that the Fire District has been directed by their legal department to determine if there is any way, other than impact fees, to garner some tax revenue for fire districts, and asked the Commissioners for suggestions. Permit fees are minimal and the Fire District is looking into supplemental levies and bonds. Commissioner Nelson mentioned a possibility of harnessing local option sales tax for ambulance services and that many support impact fees. Chairman Pro Tem Green claimed he was a proponent of impact fees, provided there was a mechanism that worked.

Fire Inspector Tyler Drechsel discussed the Uniformity Agreement, which was signed in June by all Fire Districts except St. Maries Fire. Legal counsel from St. Maries Fire has been attempting to have talks with Kootenai County legal counsel concerning boiler plate statements on the agreement. Chairman Pro Tem Green asked Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden to join the discussion.

Mr. Braden joined the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Mr. Braden was informed that the St. Maries Fire Board of Commissioners had questions regarding some of the insurance requirements stated on the Uniformity Agreement, and needed these addressed to obtain final signatures. The Fire Districts are ready to start their uniformity meetings to assure consistency with regard to road inspections. Mr. Drechsel provided Mr. Braden with the Agreement document and a letter addressed to the Board of County Commissioners dated June 19, 2013.

F. Staff Reports: There were no staff reports.

G. Public Comment: Eastside Fire Chief Doug Allman commented about the lack of parking at Carlin Bay Park. Commissioner Nelson expressed her frustration with this issue as well, stating that the codes show the area as restricted residential and, therefore, does not fit into the conditional use permit category for gravel. This has been an ongoing issue for many years.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CLIFFORD T. HAYES, CLERK

BY: _____
Patti Marland-Stevens, Deputy Clerk