

Minutes of Meeting
Coroner Policy Change Proposal
September 18, 2013
10:00 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 Coroner Deb Wilkey, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jamila Holmes, and Deputy Clerk Patti Marland-Stevens.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

B. Introductions: There were no introductions made.

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

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

E. New Business

Proposal to Change Autopsy Procedures

This was a discussion regarding a proposed policy change, and projected cost savings, for conducting autopsies within Kootenai County. Coroner Deb Wilkey explained that she had researched locations and pathologists, and met with representatives from Kootenai Medical Center (KMC). She stated that the County does not have a written policy for autopsies, but that Idaho Statute allows for autopsies to be conducted by a professional service provider when manner of death is in question. KMC contains a morgue, where local autopsies were done in the past, which is fully equipped. The County's autopsies are currently being performed at Holy Family Hospital in Spokane by a Spokane Medical Examiner. Current averages for Kootenai County are sixty-seven (67) to seventy-two (72) autopsies performed per year. Ms. Wilkey proposed to bring in a Board Certified Forensic Pathologist, under contract, to perform the necessary autopsies in the KMC facilities. She added that the four (4) surrounding counties have expressed the desire to regionalize these processes, as Spokane is cost prohibitive for them, and Kootenai County could benefit by providing additional services to those counties and keeping funds local. Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jamila Holmes provided that this proposal would bring forward three (3) separate agreements: an Independent Contractor Agreement between Kootenai County (Coroner) and a pathologist; a Facility Use Agreement between Kootenai County (Coroner) and Kootenai Medical Center; and a secondary plan agreement between Kootenai County (Coroner) and Holy Family Hospital and Spokane Medical Examiner, similar to the current ad-hoc agreement with Spokane. Chairman Tondee requested contracts be brought to the Board for review of proposed cost savings.

F. Staff Reports: There were no staff reports.

G. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CLIFFORD T. HAYES, CLERK

BY: _____
Patti Marland-Stevens, Deputy Clerk