

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Jail Proposal**  
**December 4, 2013**  
**1:00 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 were Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, Finance Director David McDowell, Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee, Undersheriff Travis Chaney, Administrative Assistant Dorinda Thurman, Major Neal Robertson, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys Darrin Murphey and John Cafferty, and Deputy Clerk Brandie Bradley.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order 1:03 p.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:**  
The attendees met to discuss the projected revenue and expenses for the Rocky Mountain Corrections jail proposal, as well as concerns of the Board.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger explained that, should the Board decide to move forward with leasing a new jail facility, it would be necessary to have a plan in place (and a back-up facility available) in the event that the lease be terminated. Prosecutor Barry McHugh stated that this fall-back facility would need to be local and allow for occupancy within one (1) year. Major Neal Robertson advised that eighty percent (80%) of the inmates that are currently being housed are awaiting adjudication or sentencing and need to be available, at the request of the Court, within forty-eight (48) hours.

The attendees discussed the option of preserving the existing jail facility, should the need arise to vacate the new leased facility. Sheriff Wolfinger suggested alternative uses for the existing facility that would require minimal remodeling and could accommodate housing of inmates on short notice, if necessary. Sheriff Wolfinger advised that North Idaho College has expressed an interest in using some of the space, including a couple of the smaller dormitories, for the Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) Academy. Kootenai Health has also expressed interest in using the existing medical units as a Mental Health/Detox Facility. Sheriff Wolfinger suggested that the Sheriff's Office could continue to house the Patrol Division, Evidence, Adult Misdemeanor Probation, and the Office of Emergency Management at the current facility. Further, he made a recommendation to continue to hold court for high risk inmates in the existing court rooms, as a holding facility is already available. It was noted that a determination would need to be made for remodeling needs to accommodate these options and that any outside agencies that occupy space in the facility would have to agree to a lease term of one (1) year.

The Board questioned the cost to maintain the existing jail facility and advised that a Feasibility Study should be done that includes the option of sustaining only necessary components of the building without leasing space. Sheriff Wolfinger advised that he did not have the funds to have a professional study done and Major Robertson requested permission to work with Buildings and Grounds Operations Manager Shawn Riley to see if he could provide insight for this option.

The Board questioned the attendees with regard to the current operation expenses as opposed to the projected operation expenses of the new facility. Commissioner Green stated that he was skeptical of the proposed amount of revenue as submitted by Rocky Mountain Corrections, and recommended that a more conservative projection of the expected revenues be used. The attendees agreed that the amount of revenue would be hard to predict. Sheriff Wolfinger determined that he can reduce the number of staff from 125 to 116. Civilian staff positions would be reduced and five (5) additional deputies would be added. The attendees agreed that skeptical estimates indicate that the costs to operate the new facility would be neutral to the current operating costs.

The attendees agreed that the current jail is not set up to meet the growing needs of the community and that either a new facility will need to be constructed or the existing facility will need to be expanded. The Board determined that the next steps in this process should include creation of a feasibility study by Buildings and Grounds and a review of the lease and the Legal Department findings.

- 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 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CLIFFORD T. HAYES, CLERK

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Brandie Bradley, Deputy Clerk