

Minutes of Meeting
Quarterly Fire Protection Districts
February 24, 2014
9:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Todd Tondee and Commissioner Jai Nelson met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Fire Chiefs Chris Way, Warren Merritt, Larry Simms and Doug Allman, Fire Commissioner Larry Clark, Fire Inspector Tyler Drechsel, and Deputy Clerk Brandie Bradley. Commissioner Dan Green was excused.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order at 9:02 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:

Fire Chief Chris Way updated the Board on the efforts of the Fire Protection Districts and 9-1-1 Director Brad Coughenour to implement a new software program that will improve dispatching services in Kootenai County. Chief Way explained that currently no guidelines exist to determine if a dispatcher should dispatch "BLS" non-emergent medical responders or "ALS" emergent/critical responders. Dispatchers often use unknown medical as the description, and Chief Way noted that this should only be used one to two percent (1% - 2%) of the time. Chief Way advised that these inconsistencies can prevent the correct resources from responding to a call when they are not dispatched correctly. The program that is being considered by emergency responders and dispatchers for Kootenai County is currently in use with four thousand (4,000) emergency dispatch agencies nationwide and Chief Way stated that Sheriff Ben Wolfinger has expressed interest in obtaining the jail module for this program as well. Some computer upgrades will be necessary, but it is possible that these expenditures can be funded by E911 funds. Once the new software has been purchased and installed, extensive training will need to be done, so this software is not expected to be ready for use by the County until late October or Mid-November, 2014.

The attendees discussed the possible changes to the existing funding methods from the state depending on new legislature. Commissioner Tondee stated that there is a possibility that some funding may be taken away and is not likely to be replaced. The Sales Tax option that is being considered will more than likely only be available to the County and Cities and will not be available for building maintenance. The attendees all agreed that until further information is received from the legislature and proposed bills have been submitted, it will be difficult to forecast potential funding changes.

Chief Larry Simms wanted to bring to the Board's attention House Bill 523, which will require all taxing and non-taxing districts in the State of Idaho to submit budgeting and auditing reports, annually or bi-annually, depending on the amount of budget for the district. The attendees advised that professional audits can be expensive depending on the auditing requirements and that it will be difficult to find funding for these services. Chief Simms wanted to make the Commissioners aware as they are responsible for compiling a list of the taxing and non-taxing districts within Kootenai County and also make sure that all of the fire districts are aware of this requirement as well.

- 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 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

TODD TONDEE, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Brandie Bradley, Deputy Clerk
