

Minutes of Meeting
Board of Community Guardians
March 10, 2014
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 Board of Community Guardians Chair Peggy Fairfield, Case Manager Emily Jakubek, Treasurer Ralph Nelson, Board Member Peggy Albertson, and Ex-officio Member Carrie McCrite, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Barry Black, County Assistance Supervisor Todd Rickard, and Deputy Clerk Nancy Jones.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order at 10:02 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:

Chair Peggy Fairfield stated that, for the third year, the Board of Community Guardians would not likely be able to meet their obligations within their current budget constraints. Ms. Fairfield explained that they are seeing an annual deficit due to the increasing number of guardianship requests and a steady rise in case complexity. In response to Chairman Tondee's question, Ms. Fairfield acknowledged that \$10,000 was received from the County for FY2014, but she explained that part of that distribution was used to pay outstanding bills from FY2013. As a result, funds for the current year were already depleted, with half of the year remaining. Treasurer Ralph Nelson and Ms. Fairfield stated that their board undertakes significant efforts to find alternative assistance for wards prior to accepting a case. Further, the board is always considered to be the guardian of last resort for supervision and protection. Chairman Tondee confirmed that annual budget allotments are typically distributed in \$5,000 increments. Ms. Fairfield made a request for the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to allot an additional \$7,500 for expenditures in FY2014, and to increase their annual budget to \$20,000 in FY2015.

The attendees discussed historical budget allotments for the Board of Community Guardians, and the Commissioners asked questions to clarify the anticipated deficit for FY2014. Ms. Fairfield agreed to compile a three (3) year caseload and budget history and present that information to the BOCC by May for consideration during the FY2015 budget process. Commissioner Nelson asked Ms. Fairfield to begin compiling current case and financial information into a report so that, moving forward, the BOCC will have timely access to their budget information for the current year.

Commissioner Green moved to authorize an additional \$7,500 (to be allotted out of the General Contingency Fund) to the Board of Community Guardians, for FY2014 expenses. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Jones called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye

Commissioner Green: Aye

Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

Ms. Fairfield thanked the Commissioners for their support and indicated that she would remit a letter in four (4) to six (6) weeks to request a portion of these funds. The Board showed support for the budget increase request for FY2015, provided that the requested historical data is made available for consideration.

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 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

TODD TONDEE, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Nancy A. Jones, Deputy Clerk
