

**Minutes of Meeting  
Budget Public Hearing  
August 27, 2014  
6:00 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 Information Systems Director James Martin, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Barry Black, Undersheriff Dan Mattos, Community Development Director David Callahan, Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee, Staff Accountant Kimberli Price, Staff Accountant Nancy Curotto, Juvenile Detention Director JT Taylor, Board of County Commissioners Administrative Assistant Nancy Jones, Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, Human Resources Director Skye Reynolds, Finance Director David McDowell, Chief Deputy Treasurer Laurie Thomas, Assessor Administrative Supervisor II Jan Lindquist, Solid Waste Principal Planner Laureen Chaffin, Parks and Waterways Director Nick Snyder, Adult Misdemeanor Probation Director Kevin Creighton, District Court Trial Court Administrator Karlene Behringer, Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System Chief Christopher Way, and Deputy Clerk Brandie Bradley.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Tondee led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** Chairman Tondee advised the attendees that the agenda that was distributed at the beginning of this meeting was not the correct agenda and that the correct agenda that was published in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* and noticed by the Board would be the agenda that was used for this meeting. No changes were made to the agenda that was noticed.
- D. Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.
- E. New Business:** The Board met to conduct a Public Hearing, for which notice was given in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* on August 13, 2014, and August 20, 2014, pursuant to *Idaho Code §31-1604*, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Kootenai County budget.

Clerk Jim Brannon welcomed the attendees and introduced Finance Director David McDowell. Mr. Brannon advised that, for the first time, five (5) year spending trends were used to develop the budget. Mr. Brannon thanked the Elected Officials, Mr. McDowell, and Staff Accountant Kimberli Price for their efforts. Mr. Brannon noted that a handout of the presentation was available at the back of the room for the attendees and could also be found on the County's website.

Mr. Brannon advised that the FY15 proposed budget was in the amount of \$79,646,264. The property tax portion was proposed to be approximately fifty-two percent (52%) at \$41.2 million dollars. He stated that no property tax increase was proposed for 2015, and noted that under the current Board of County Commissioners nearly \$5.4 million dollars has been added to the County's Foregone Tax Authority over the last four (4) years.

Mr. Brannon highlighted the major proposed expenditure changes for FY15. He explained that the Involuntary Police Holds mirror the national trend and a proposed increase of \$570,258 has been recommended for these expenditures. Mr. Brannon also noted that a new phase of Citylink transportation will be initiated in FY2015 and a grant of \$569,907 will be used to acquire land at Riverstone, improve parking and construct a shelter for Citylink riders. In addition, Mr. Brannon advised that the Board is proposing to change the administration of the County's self-funded health insurance plan to Regence BlueShield, which would result in a savings of nearly \$300,000. The Commissioners are also considering a wage adjustment for employees, which would equalize the compression impacts that resulted from the revision of the pay structure in Fiscal Year 2014.

Finance Director David McDowell presented a verbal summary of the proposed budget packet. Topics discussed included a review of capital expenditures, funding sources, expenditure and revenue changes, and a brief overview of property tax levy dollars. Mr. McDowell explained that the proposed levy rate for FY15 would decrease four point seven percent (4.7%) as total market values throughout the County had increased to twelve (12) billion dollars.

Mr. Brannon outlined the departments that are mandated to provide services. Mr. Brannon also explained that thirty-three (33) new positions were requested for FY15; of those only eight (8) positions were included in the proposed budget. Due to positions that were previously frozen, the addition of these eight (8) positions as proposed would result in no change to the number of current positions at the County.

Mr. McDowell closed his presentation with an explanation of levy rates, taxable market values, property tax levy history, property tax levy dollars and property tax, valuation and budget trends. Mr. Brannon then thanked the attendees and advised the Board that the budget was ready for consideration.

Chairman Tondee opened the floor for public comment at 6:19 p.m.

Comments were received from three (3) individuals:

Mr. Gary Nystrom, 7094 W. Big Sky Drive, Post Falls, Idaho shared his concerns about the elimination of a psychiatric nurse practitioner at the Jail. Mr. Nystrom asked the Board to consider retaining this individual and possibly reducing the number of new patrol vehicles that are purchased in FY15. Mr. Nystrom also advised that he has received information that Kootenai County is purchasing vehicles for more than the amount that was negotiated under the State of Idaho and recommended that the Board consider accepting new bids for these vehicles. The Board responded to Mr. Nystrom's concerns advising that a psychiatric nurse was proposed in the budget, but that this position was not currently a staffed position at the jail.

Mr. Frank Davis, 3008 Springview, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho expressed his concerns that each year a budget is adopted and then overspent, which then requires the budget to be reopened and amended. Mr. Davis shared his opinion that the Board should hold the Elected Officials responsible for overspending of their budgets and require an explanation. Mr. Davis also had concerns about the amount of funds that are received through Telmate for commissary services. He explained that these funds should be brought into the general fund and not just expended at the Sheriff's discretion.

Mr. Bob Bingham, 9654 E Highway 54, Athol, Idaho, questioned why Kootenai County appeared to spend a higher amount per person than any other County in Idaho, including Ada and Canyon County. Mr. Bingham provided the Board with a handout that detailed the differences between the Counties. He recommended that the Board take this information into consideration and conduct a study to determine why Kootenai County's expenditures exceed those of the other Counties.

Commissioner Nelson moved to close the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. Commissioner Green seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Bradley called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye

Commissioner Green: Aye

Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

The Public Comment portion of the hearing was closed at 6:35 p.m.

Chairman Tondee opened the Public Hearing for the Aquifer Protection Budget at 6:36 p.m.

Mr. McDowell presented the proposed FY2015 Aquifer Protection Budget. Mr. McDowell commended the Aquifer Protection District for their efforts and stewardship of the aquifer. Mr. McDowell advised that the proposed Aquifer Protection District's Budget for FY15 is \$437,400 and is included in the Kootenai County FY15 proposed budget.

Chairman Tondee explained that the Aquifer Protection District's expenditures have remained relatively the same. He stated that this year's budget proposes an increase to the Aquifer Protection Fees from six dollars (\$6) to seven dollars (\$7) per parcel.

Chairman Tondee invited the public to comment. No public comments were received.

Commissioner Green moved to close the Public Hearing for the Aquifer Protection District's FY15 budget and fee increases. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Bradley called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye

Commissioner Green: Aye

Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

The Public Comment portion of the Aquifer Protection District hearing was closed at 6:43 p.m.

Chairman Tondee opened the Public Hearing for the Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services Systems (KCEMSS) at 6:43 p.m.

KCEMSS Systems Chief Christopher Way presented the proposed KCEMSS FY15 budget in the amount of \$6,971,431. Chief Way noted that KCEMSS recommended a budget increase of \$279,361 from FY14; but no tax increases were requested. Chief Way advised that two (2) new positions were requested for FY15, which included an Administrative Assistant and a Division Chief of Clinical Services.

Chairman Tondee invited the public to comment. No public comments were received.

Commissioner Green moved to close the Public Hearing for the KCEMSS FY15 budget. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Bradley called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye  
Commissioner Green: Aye  
Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

The Public Comment portion of the KCEMSS budget hearing was closed at 6:51 p.m.

Commissioner Nelson requested that the Kootenai County FY15 budget hearing be reopened so that the Board could discuss the Trinity Food Services inmate meals contract.

Commissioner Green moved to re-open the Kootenai County FY15 budget hearing for the purpose of discussing the Trinity Food Services contract. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Bradley called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye  
Commissioner Green: Aye  
Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

Chairman Tondee invited Sheriff Ben Wolfinger to address the Board about the Trinity Food Services contract. Sheriff Wolfinger explained that the contract is currently under review by Legal Services and that it was his understanding that their budget had already been reduced by approximately \$300,000 to adjust for the savings that have been negotiated with Trinity Food Services. Mr. McDowell confirmed that this amount had not been removed from the proposed budget.

Chairman Tondee invited the public to comment. No public comments were received.

Commissioner Green moved to close the Public Hearing for the Kootenai County FY15 budget hearing. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Bradley called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye  
Commissioner Green: Aye  
Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

The Board discussed the option of reducing the budget by \$250,000 to reflect the savings from the Trinity Food Services contract negotiations.

The Board requested direction from Chief Deputy Prosecutor Barry Black as to the need for separate motions on each agenda item. Mr. Black advised the Board that separate motions would be preferred and that the final motion should be for the Kootenai County FY15 budget.

Commissioner Green moved to approve the Aquifer Protection District fee increase from six dollars (\$6) to seven dollars (\$7). Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Bradley called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye  
Commissioner Green: Aye  
Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

Commissioner Green moved to adopt the Aquifer Protection District FY15 budget as presented with the incorporated fee increase. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Bradley called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye  
Commissioner Green: Aye  
Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

Commissioner Nelson moved to adopt the Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System FY15 budget of \$6,971,431. Commissioner Green seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Bradley called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye  
Commissioner Green: Aye  
Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

Commissioner Green moved to adopt the Kootenai County FY15 budget as presented by the Auditor's Office with the reduction of \$250,000 to reflect the amendment to the Trinity Food Services Contract, for a total budget of \$79,396,264. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Bradley called the roll:

Commissioner Nelson: Aye  
Commissioner Green: Aye  
Chairman Tondee: Aye

The motion carried.

**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 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
JIM BRANNON, CLERK

TODD TONDEE, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brandie Bradley, Deputy Clerk

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