

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**FY2016 Budget Deliberations**  
**July 22, 2015**  
**1:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman David Stewart and Commissioner Dan Green met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee, Senior Staff Accountant Kimberli Price, Undersheriff Dan Mattos, Chief Deputy Assessor Richard Houser, Treasurer Steve Matheson, and Deputy Clerk Meshell Missler. Also present were Coeur d'Alene Press writer David Cole, and citizen Tina Kunishige. Commissioner Marc Eberlein was absent.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman David Stewart called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- B. Introductions:** There were no introductions.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- D. Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.
- E. New Business:**

**Preliminary Budget Summary**

Clerk Jim Brannon presented and discussed with the Board the updated FY2016 Budget Summaries including new growth percentages, possible wage increases for non-matrix and elected official positions, and property tax adjustment figures.

Chairman Stewart said he supported a 4% wage increase including the elected officials. He said previous Board's had continued to defer compensation decisions and the County needs to take care of its employees. Chairman Stewart said compensation should be a cost of doing business.

Commissioner Green said he did not want to force taxpayers to pay for this cost of doing business. He said he considered the elected official positions to be public service, and the County's health benefits are exceptional and generous in comparison to private sector employers.

Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee presented tentative wage increases for FY2016 from surrounding city offices as follows:

- City of Post Falls: 1% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and 75% of employees were eligible for an additional 3% Merit Increase
- City of Coeur d'Alene: 2% COLA and 40% of employees were eligible for an additional 5% Merit Increase

Chairman Stewart and Commissioner Green continued a lengthy discussion regarding wage increases. No decisions were made.

Commissioner Marc Eberlein joined the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

The Board continued the discussion regarding property tax increases, unassigned fund balances, and wage adjustments with Clerk Brannon and Senior Staff Accountant Kimberli Price.

Commissioner Eberlein moved to tentatively use the new projected revenue to lower the property tax increase from 1 ½% to 1%, increase the wage adjustment to 3%, fund the Sheriff's Jail requests coming forward on July 28, 2015, and put the remaining projected revenue into the fund balance. Further discussion continued. As there was no second, the motion failed. Commissioner Eberlein withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Eberlein moved to tentatively increase property tax by 1% and increase the wage adjustment to 3%. Commissioner Green seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Missler called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein: Aye

Commissioner Green: Aye

Chairman Stewart: Aye

The motion carried.

The Board continued to discuss wage increases specifically for the elected official positions. Mr. Brannon sought the Board's clarification and asked if the 3% wage increase would include the elected officials.

Chairman Stewart said he supported including the elected officials in the wage increase.

Commissioner Green said he considered the elected officials to be public service positions and did not support an increase.

Commissioner Eberlein moved to include elected officials in the 3% wage increase with the stipulation that each elected official had the option to keep or return the funds to their employees. Commissioner Eberlein said he would be the first to return it to the employees. A lengthy discussion arose regarding de-politicizing the elected officials. As there was no second, the motion failed. Commissioner Eberlein withdrew the motion.

Chairman Stewart moved to include the elected officials in the 3% wage increase. As there was no second, the motion failed.

Chairman Stewart moved to include the elected officials in the 3% wage increase excluding the Board of County Commissioners. As there was no second, the motion failed.

Commissioner Eberlein and Commissioner Green agreed to exclude the elected officials in the 3% wage increase.

Clerk Brannon requested the Board's clarification regarding elected officials and department managers having autonomy to distribute the 3% wage increase at their own discretion or if it was to be distributed equally among employees.

Commissioner Green moved that the 3% wage increase was an aggregate number, to give the elected officials autonomy to distribute as they saw fit. He further added, the Sheriff's office may not use this wage increase to adjust their matrices. Commissioner Eberlein seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Missler called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein: Aye

Commissioner Green: Aye

Chairman Stewart: Aye

The motion carried.

Ms. Price requested clarification from the Board regarding the Health Insurance increase being funded from the fund balance. Commissioner Green and Commissioner Eberlein agreed to fund the Health Insurance increase from fund balance.

- F. **Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. There was no public comment.

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DAVID STEWART, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meshell Missler, Deputy Clerk

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