

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**FY 2016 Budget Public Hearing**  
**August 26, 2015**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman David Stewart, Commissioner Dan Green, and Commissioner Marc Eberlein met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee, Finance Director Sondra Emerson, Senior Staff Accountant Kimberli Price, Tax Auditing Technician Julina Hildreth, Treasurer Steve Matheson, Chief Deputy Director Laurie Thomas, Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, Undersheriff Dan Mattos, Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Barry Black, Grants Management Office Director Jody Bieze, Parks and Waterways Director Nick Snyder, Airport Director Greg Delavan, Human Resources Director Skye Reynolds, Information Systems Director James Martin, Solid Waste Director Cathy Mayer, Court Services Director Diana Meyer, Court Services Manager Nicole Vigil, Vehicle License Manager Carlene Coit, County Assistance Manager Shelly Amos, Assessor Administrative Manager Jan Lindquist, Assessor Mapping Manager Joe Johns, Reprographics/Mail Center Manager David Reid, Solid Waste Operations Manager Rick Bishop, Chief Bailiff-Jury Commissioners Pete Barnes, Administrative Supervisor Nancy Jones, Senior Secretary Leighanna Ward, and Deputy Clerk Theresa Atchley. Also present were Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System Chief Christopher Way and Aquifer Protection District Chairman Paul Klatt.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman David Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** Commissioner Marc Eberlein moved to change the agenda; he said he would like to consider a 0% property tax increase. Chairman Stewart asked where the additional funds would come from and Commissioner Eberlein stated the additional funds would come from fund balances. Chairman Stewart seconded the motion. No vote was taken, Commissioner Eberlein clarified that he wanted to add this item to the agenda for discussion. Commissioner Dan Green said this could be discussed during deliberations.
- D. Introductions:** Clerk Jim Brannon introduced his staff; Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee, Senior Staff Accountant Kimberli Price, and Tax Auditing Technician Julina Hildreth.

Chairman Stewart thanked Clerk Brannon and his staff for their assistance and professionalism throughout the budget process.

- E. New Business:** The Board met to conduct a Public Hearing, for which notice was given in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* on August 12, 2015 and August 19, 2015, pursuant to *Idaho Code §31-1604*, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 (FY2016) Kootenai County budget.

**Opening Remarks by Clerk Jim Brannon**

Clerk Brannon explained that three separate budget hearings would take place; the Aquifer Protection District (APD), Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System (KCEMSS), and Kootenai County FY2016. He added that after each hearing the public would be invited to comment.

## **FY2016 Aquifer Protection District**

Chairman Stewart opened the public hearing for the Aquifer Protection District (APD) proposed budget.

APD Chairman Paul Klatt explained the APD was established for the protection of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer in 2007. He said each parcel in the district received equal benefit from aquifer protection and the uniform fee per parcel would remain unchanged at \$7. Mr. Klatt said the FY2016 APD proposed budget was \$521,050 and was included in the FY2016 Kootenai County proposed budget.

Chairman Stewart invited the public to comment for the APD proposed budget. No public comment was received.

Commissioner Eberlein moved to enter deliberations to discuss the FY2016 APD budget. Commissioner Green seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Atchley called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein:	Aye
Commissioner Green	Aye
Chairman Stewart	Aye

The Board discussed and concurred that the FY2016 APD budget was well prepared and provided excellent service to the County.

Commissioner Green moved to adopt the FY2016 APD budget as presented. Commissioner Eberlein seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Atchley called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein:	Aye
Commissioner Green	Aye
Chairman Stewart	Aye

## **FY2016 Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System**

Chairman Stewart opened the public hearing for the Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services\_System (KCEMSS) proposed budget.

KCEMSS Chief Christopher Way presented the Kootenai County portion of the FY2016 KCEMSS proposed budget in the amount of \$2,404,312. He said this amount included the allowable 3% increase plus new growth.

Chairman Stewart invited the public to comment for the KCEMSS proposed budget. No public comment was received.

Commissioner Eberlein moved to enter deliberations to discuss the FY2016 KCEMSS proposed budget. Commissioner Green seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Atchley called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein:	Aye
Commissioner Green	Aye
Chairman Stewart	Aye

The Board said they had no questions regarding the FY2016 KCEMSS proposed budget.

Commissioner Green moved to adopt the FY2016 KCEMSS budget as presented. Commissioner Eberlein seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Atchley called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein:	Aye
Commissioner Green	Aye
Chairman Stewart	Aye

### **FY2016 Kootenai County Budget**

Chairman Stewart opened the public hearing for the FY2016 Kootenai County budget.

Clerk Brannon provided a summary of the FY2016 Kootenai County proposed budget and information packets. He added his contact information was in the packet and encouraged attendees to contact him if they had questions. Clerk Brannon reported the FY2016 Kootenai County proposed budget was \$80,888,286. He added this was a 1.5 million dollar increase over the FY2015 budget. He highlighted the increased demand for justice services within the County and explained mandated vs. discretionary services and said that a 1% property tax increase would be deliberated. He explained the nearly \$700,000 increase in health care benefits for employees was being absorbed by the County.

Clerk Brannon discussed the personnel wage increase that was approved mid-year FY2015 for KCSO sworn personnel and command staff, funding the Sheriff and 9-1-1 matrix steps for FY2016, and a 3% merit increase for all other County employees with the exception of elected officials.

He thanked his staff for their efforts during the budget process and introduced the County's newly hired finance director Sondra Emerson.

At the request of District Court Judge Haynes, Clerk Brannon read a letter dated August 12, 2015, into the record. The letter was to the County Board of County Commissioners from the District Court and was signed by all Kootenai County Judges. The letter requested the Board re-consider hiring a full-time bailiff for the court.

Chairman Stewart invited the public to comment for the FY2016 Kootenai County budget. No public comment was received.

Commissioner Green moved to close public testimony and begin deliberations on the FY2016 Kootenai County budget. Commissioner Eberlein seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Atchley called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein:	Aye
Commissioner Green	Aye
Chairman Stewart	Aye

Commissioner Eberlein moved to eliminate the proposed 1% property tax increase and fund the deficit from the fund balances. Chairman Stewart seconded the motion.

The motion was not voted on and the Commissioners discussed several issues.

Commissioner Green suggested eliminating \$60,000 from the Airport Capital budget to fund the full-time bailiff requested by the Kootenai County Judges.

Commissioner Green said that while he was not in favor of raising taxes, he was concerned regarding an additional 2 million dollars for personnel costs and these costs were ongoing.

Commissioner Eberlein said the additional 2 million would be paid for by new growth and fund balances, he added that these fund balances were healthy.

There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Atchley called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein:	Aye
Commissioner Green	Nay
Chairman Stewart	Aye

Commissioner Green moved to authorize an entry-level full-time bailiff, based on an annual salary plus benefits cost of approximately \$43,000, and remove \$60,000 from the Airport Capital Budget to fund the position. Commissioner Eberlein seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Atchley called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein:	Aye
Commissioner Green	Aye
Chairman Stewart	Aye

Commissioner Green moved to adopt the FY2016 Kootenai County Budget with no other changes. Commissioner Eberlein seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk Atchley called the roll:

Commissioner Eberlein:	Aye
Commissioner Green	Aye
Chairman Stewart	Aye

**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. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DANIEL H. GREEN, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa Atchley, Deputy Clerk

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