

Minutes of Special Meeting
Continuation of Buildings and Grounds
November 23, 2015
2:00 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Dan Green, Commissioner Marc Eberlein, and Commissioner David Stewart met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee, Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, Undersheriff Dan Mattos, Buildings & Grounds Director Shawn Riley, and Deputy Clerk Alicia Lynch. Also present were citizen Tina Kunshige and Coeur d'Alene Press staff writer Brian Walker.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Dan Green continued the Buildings and Grounds meeting from November 18, 2015, at 2:01 p.m.
- B. Introductions:** There were no introductions.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- D. New Business:**

Construction of a new pod of hard cells at the Jail

Commissioner Marc Eberlein restated his idea to build the proposed additional pod that had never been constructed but with modifications to make the addition for hard cells and not dormitories. He stated that the public had expressed a lack of appetite for bonds and new construction. He said this was a pressing need and if the Board could pay for it without asking the tax payers for more money or if the Board could pay for a large portion of it and only ask for a small portion from the tax payers then it might be more palatable to them. Commissioner Eberlein said that currently transporting prisoners to other Counties because of lack of space was a great expense to the County. He added it was his intention that this add-on buy the County another ten years to plan for their new jail.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger stated the last jail expansion did not gain support from the tax payers because it was too big and involved and that the more moderate plan that preceded it lost by only a 1-2% margin. He added if the jail was expanded to accommodate more hard cells it would require extra staff.

Chairman Green asked that the Board to consider a \$100,000 budget for a study regarding expanding the jail.

Treasurer Steve Matheson entered the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Remodel the current Heating Ventilating Air Conditioning (HVAC) system of the Justice Building

Buildings and Grounds Director Shawn Riley estimated it would cost \$500,000 to remodel the current HVAC system at the Justice Building and he did not think it was a high priority at this time. The Board agreed.

Clerk Jim Brannon, Sheriff Wolfinger, and Undersheriff Dan Mattos exited the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Remodel the Law Library in the lower floor of the Justice Building so it may be used as a courtroom

Mr. Riley explained that the remodel proposed would have made a courtroom with a maximum capacity of six people. The plan was vetoed by Administrative Judge Haynes and Trial Court Administrator Karlene Behringer. The Board agreed with the assessment and agreed to remove the item from consideration.

Clerk Jim Brannon re-entered the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Possible move involving Adult Misdemeanor Probation (AMP), Juvenile Diversion, and the Prosecutor's office; also, Specialty Courts' request to move to the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC)

Chairman Green reiterated his opposition to fracturing the Administrative campus and moving people for the sake of moving them. He stated he was against leaving an empty floor at the JJC and the added cost of making the Administrative Annex more secure for AMP's use. He said he didn't understand what these moves would accomplish.

Commissioner Eberlein stated he was against mixing adults with juveniles.

Mr. Riley added that during Buildings & Grounds re-carpeting projects it helped to have the available space at the Administrative Annex to put employees while their floors were being re-carpeted.

The Board agreed they would not act on these moves. Chairman Green stated he would contact the Prosecutor and Commissioner Eberlein stated he would speak with the Director of AMP.

Shared parking with the City of Coeur d'Alene

Chairman Green explained he had met with the City to discuss the proposed shared parking lot across the street from the Administrative Campus. He stated it would be advantageous to the County as it would alleviate the parking issues at the Administrative Campus without using County property. He stated the proposed plan was for a below-grade open parking lot with an underground pedestrian tunnel for an estimated cost of \$7,500 per parking space. The City's proposal estimated the County would pay \$1.7 million dollars for 200 spaces.

Commissioner Stewart was willing to support the project to preserve County real estate. Commissioner Eberlein said it sounded like too high a price for what the County was receiving. He also did not believe that employees would use it as it was far from the County buildings.

Mr. Riley suggested using this parking arrangement for jurors and offering shuttle services for anyone with special needs. He added that there could be additional costs to what the City was proposing if additional security measures such as cameras would be needed.

No direction was given by the Board; the item remained on the list of projects to be considered.

Overall Facility Master Plan Concept

Chairman Green presented updated information from the Clerk regarding annual facility costs. He stated that \$500,000 was being spent by the County on the JJC, the Public Defender's lease, and shuttling inmates to the Courthouses. He reminded his fellow Commissioners of the talk they had with Zion Public Finance regarding bonds and asked if the Board would consider using a General Obligations (GO) Bond to consolidate the Administrative Campus. He added a GO would require a 2/3 vote from the public.

Commissioner Eberlein stated he was not in favor of using a bond and added that the public could lose faith in the Board of County Commissioners if a bond was used for the facility. He said he did not think the public would favor expanding the jail and consolidating the campus at the same time.

Treasurer Steve Matheson asked each Commissioner what they thought the long term use of the facilities in question would be. Chairman Green stated he was envisioning the new facility would serve the County for 20 years.

Commissioner Stewart was against the consolidation of the campus.

The Board decided against committing any dollars to the Facility Master Plan project at this time.

Commissioner Stewart suggested adding additional floors to the Justice Building, which was part of its original design, and fixing the HVAC system at that time.

Coeur d'Alene Press Staff Writer Brian Walker exited the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Mr. Riley stated that there was no backup power systems at the Courthouse or at the Justice Building, and that required services could not function if the power was lost in those buildings.

Clerk Jim Brannon reminded the Board that there were other projects they had set monies aside to consider: a fueling station, Fleet Management, and Information Systems' five-year plan.

E. 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 Green adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DANIEL H. GREEN, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Alicia Lynch, Deputy Clerk
