

**Minutes of Meeting
Board of Guardians
April 27, 2016
3:00 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Dan Green and Commissioner David Stewart met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were County Assistance Manager Shelly Amos, Claims Specialist & Interviewer Carrie McCrite, BOCC Administrative Supervisor Nancy Jones, and Deputy Clerk Alicia Lynch. Also present were Board of Community Guardians Chair Peggy Fairfield, Vice Chair Kay Kindig, Board Members Emily Jakwock and David Levine. Commissioner Marc Eberlein was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Dan Green called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Green requested those present introduce themselves for the record.
- B. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.
- D. New Business:**

Annual Report, pursuant to Idaho Code 15-9-603

Chairman Green inquired if the \$20,000 budget was more appropriate than the previous \$10,000 budget. Board of Community Guardians Chair Peggy Fairfield explained that the additional dollars had been beneficial in avoiding the past pattern of emergency fund requests. She provided a letter to the Board, an annual report of the Guardian's statistics and budget.

BOCC Administrative Supervisor Nancy Jones outlined the changes to the Guardian's Minutes procedures. She explained that Legal and the Clerk had determined that because of the sensitive nature of the cases discussed, the Guardians were exempt from Open Meeting Law. Instead of minutes, Ms. Jones said that the Guardians supplied activity reports to the Board for budgetary decisions.

Commissioner David Stewart asked if the Guardians were more of an administrative board instead of an advisory board. Chairman Green explained that the role of the Guardians, like that of the Fair Board, were defined in statute.

Chairman Green thanked the Guardians for their dedicated service.

Commissioner Stewart inquired how the Guardians received or accepted their cases. Ms. Fairchild said that referrals come from hospitals, the police, nursing homes, adult protection services, and even concerned neighbors. She explained that the majority of their cases arose from seniors with medical issues who need placement and were unable to make decisions or understand procedures on their own. Vice Chair Kay Kindig explained that all of their cases went to court where they were made the legal guardians

of their wards. She said that they were the guardians of last resort which was why there was a lengthy process before the Guardians accepted a ward.

Ms. Kindig reviewed the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. She explained that \$1,030 was spent on Password, a third party intermediary that functioned as a phone tree, but also screened their calls and protected their identities. Ms. Fairchild explained that Michael Wytchak, an elder law specialist, had been their legal counsel prior to his retirement. She said that Katherine Coyle had taken his place and continued to offer the same discounted service to the Guardians that Mr. Wytchak had provided. She added that there was no formal contract for these legal services and that Chief Deputy Prosecutor Barry Black also assists the Guardians.

Ms. Fairchild noted that there had been a recent influx of mental health referrals, and she explained that their services often excluded mental health because those clients had a fluctuating mental capacity and were not always in need of a guardian. Ms. Kindig clarified that the Guardians assisted those citizens with permanent and deteriorating conditions.

Chairman Green inquired if there was a regular judge that saw their cases. Ms. Fairfield replied that there had been one magistrate to see their cases several years ago, but now the Guardians did not consistently see one magistrate. She added that the Legal expense and Caseworker expenses noted in the Guardian's budget covered costs from wards that had Medicaid and could not afford these services without the Guardian's aid.

- 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 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DANIEL H. GREEN, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Alicia Lynch, Deputy Clerk
