



Bonner County

Board of Commissioners

Brian Domke

Asia Williams

Ron Korn

MINUTES FOR THE BONNER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

October 29, 2025 – 1:00 PM

Bonner County Administration Building
1500 Highway 2, Room 338, Sandpoint, ID

On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, the Bonner County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioners Domke and Williams were present. Commissioner Domke called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Invocation was presented by Annalea Eastley and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

ADOPT THE ORDER OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adopt the Order of the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Domke stepped down from the chair and seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Williams – Yes; Commissioner Domke – Yes. The motion carries.

CONSENT AGENDA – Action Item

- 1) Bonner County Commissioners' Minutes October 2, 2025
- 2) Liquor License(s): Walmart #2485, Ponderay; Sand Creek Schweitzer Conoco, Ponderay; Payless Gas, Kootenai; Spud's Waterfront Grill, Sandpoint; Cabinet Mountain Bar & Grill, Clark Fork; 219 Lounge, Sandpoint; 113 Main, Sandpoint; Jalapeno's Mexican Restaurant, Sandpoint; FOE Sandpoint Aerie 589, Sandpoint; Sunshine on Cedar, Sandpoint; Connie's Café & Lounge, Sandpoint; 7B Lanes, Sandpoint; Priest Lake Brewing, Priest Lake (2); Timber Town Beer Company, Priest River (2)

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Domke stepped down from the chair and seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Domke – Yes; Commissioner Williams – Yes. The motion carries.

CLERK – Michael Rosedale

- 1) Action Item: Discussion/Decision Regarding FY25 Claims Batch #55, **Totaling \$47,071.14**
Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve payment of FY25 Claims Batch #55, Totaling \$47,071.14. Commissioner Domke stepped down from the chair and seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Williams – Yes; Commissioner Domke – Yes. The motion carries.
- 2) Action Item: Discussion/Decision Regarding FY26 Claims Batch #04, **Totaling \$346,616.05**
Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve payment of FY26 Claims Batch #04, Totaling \$346,616.05. Commissioner Domke stepped down from the chair and seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Domke – Yes; Commissioner Williams – Yes. The motion carries.
- 3) Action Item: Discussion/Decision Regarding FY26 Demands Batch #04, **Totaling \$6,298.64**
Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve payment of FY26 Demands in Batch #04, Totaling \$6,298.64. Commissioner Domke stepped down from the chair and seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Williams – Yes; Commissioner Domke – Yes. The motion carries.

Clerk Rosedale announced that while there is an Election on Tuesday, not all precincts will be open.

ROAD & BRIDGE – Matt Mulder

1) Action Item: Discussion/Decision Regarding Railroad Quiet Zone Policy Update 2025

There was a lengthy discussion between the board and Matt.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve this framework as a foundation for the establishment of railroad crossing quiet zones and direct the Road & Bridge Department to pursue selecting the most qualified consultant engineer to act as the quiet zone proponent at the cost of the requestor and to bring back a selected consultant professional service scope of work and fee at a later meeting, noting that the foundational framework presented in this meeting is open to additional amendment by the Board of County Commissioners to address a potential bond and a potential minimum amount required in the account to ensure that any burden of reversion back to the original state is not borne by residents of Bonner County. Commissioner Domke stepped down from the chair and seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Steve Morgan – Has done hours of research and has some of the same concerns. He has found documentation that quiet zones improve safety and are better for communities overall. Doing this may be gaining liability, urges the board to have legal look at this.
- Dan McDaniel – Initially he believed everyone had good intentions going into this, but neither side went beyond the investment of the project, not the ongoing funding/cost which is not fair. The discussion had seemed to target a small number of homes funding-wise.
- Patricia Sheets – Was instrumental in the process for establishing the Ponder Point quiet zone, which took about two years. They raised the money and established the quiet zone. They were never told that they would need to maintain the cost for a quiet zone, she proposes that they be grandfathered so they do not have to pay further. They already have to pay to maintain all areas in the county even if they don't use them with property taxes.
- Matt Loem – Thanked Matt for his assistance in this process so far. He never heard trains where he previously lived in Chicago, the city paid for quiet zones. Train whistles are just a warning of danger, just like a red light or yellow lines, it is not a barrier. He wishes the county paid for this.
- Clint M. – He is one of the authors of this document and understands the cost is not a one time cost but will be ongoing. Requested clarification on reversion of the quiet zone back from a quiet zone. Briefly commented on the quantitative measure of liability. Requests that existing quiet zones be handled separately. If this is not going to go through then he will make a campaign to bring awareness of a tax break for those near railroad crossings, he will be looking into this. There is an overall benefit to the community as a whole.
- David Kaiser – Recently moved here, the Ponder Point quiet zone was a big factor in his home purchase, it would not be fair to change the rules for this established zone. It is not just the Ponder Point area benefiting from this quiet zone.
- Jerome – Would like to know the cost and what went into making the Ponder Point quiet zone. This was a big factor in his buying in Ponder Point three years ago. He wants to know the role that the RR has in this, the cost should be shared with them. Believe that the RR should change the location of where they stage.
- Roberta – Agrees with the prior comment. Commented on imminent domain being used to establish quiet zones, she does not have a problem contributing to maintenance, the cost to them is not fair. The balusters are knocked down by R&B, not the community.
- Steve Wolf – Thanked the county for establishing the quiet zone at Ponder Point. Does not see that there is a lot of maintenance there

The board deliberated and reiterated that they are not here about Ponder Point but the implementation of a new quiet zone policy, the comment about the RR impact to property assessments was discussed as well as the cost, risk, liability, imminent domain, and the priorities of R&B. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Domke – Yes; Commissioner Williams – Yes. The motion carries.

PLANNING – David Fisher

1) Action Item: Discussion/Decision Regarding SS0006-22 Fisher Haven Estates, Partial Release of Surety

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the partial release of the surety amounting to \$52,039.65 for the completion of improvements for project SS0006-22. Commissioner Domke stepped down from the chair and seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Williams – Yes; Commissioner Domke – Yes. The motion carries.

DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER UPDATE

- 1) Citizen Concerns and Suggestions
- 2) Current High Priority Tasks
- 3) Questions from the Public on District 1 Commissioner Update

DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER DISTRICT DISCUSSION

- 1) Ongoing Issues/Concerns Updates
- 2) Litigation
- 3) Workshops Pending
- 4) Discussion Regarding Open Board/Commission Positions: Which boards have openings, also tracking of positions that will become open within 6 months' time
- 5) Questions from the Public

PUBLIC COMMENT* None

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Clerk: *Alisa Schoeffel*

The following is a summary of the Board of County Commissioners' Special Meetings (including Tax Cancellations, Assistance Meetings, Admin, and other) Executive Sessions, Emergency Meetings, and Hearings held during the week of October 21, 2025 – October 28, 2025. Copies of the complete meeting minutes are available upon request.

On Wednesday, October 22, 2025, a Planning Hearing was held pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-204(4)

On Thursday, October 23, 2025, a Planning Workshop was held pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-204(4)

On Monday, October 27, 2025, an HR Update was held pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-204(4)

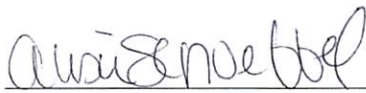
On Monday, October 27, 2025, an IDL Update was held pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-204(4)

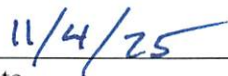
On Monday, October 27, 2025, a Special Meeting with Technology was held pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-204(4)

On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, a Planning Hearing was held pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-204(4)

ATTEST: Michael W. Rosedale

By 
Commissioner Brian Domke, Chair

By 
Deputy Clerk


Date