



Bonner County
Board of Commissioners

Brian Domke

Asia Williams

Ron Korn

Special Meeting Minutes

Date: December 4, 2025
Location: 1500 Hwy 2, Suite 338
Sandpoint, ID 83864
Convene at: 1:00 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS: Domke – Present Williams – Absent Korn – Present
OTHERS PRESENT: Jonathan Holmgren, Robert Abel, Nate Adams

Purpose/Topic Summary: Regarding the Fair, Fairgrounds, and Fair Board

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Commissioner Domke called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Commissioner Domke provided a brief overview that this will be about State Statute surrounding fairs and fair boards.

Jonathan discussed that the County is at risk due to fair personnel and how the fair and grounds are managed. He read the applicable State Statutes regarding the fair and the fair board. He believes that the fair board has been overstepping in regard to personnel matters. He presented a proposed framework to maintain clear boundaries, especially in relation to personnel.

Commissioner Korn proposed a discussion of each of the points presented by Jonathan. Robert briefly discussed the legal layout and what his and Nate's roles are. Ron briefly outlined a few of these points.

Jonathan noted that there is not a Fair District in Bonner County that he is aware of, nor is he aware of County property being sold or given to a Fair District. There was a discussion regarding the property and how it relates to the fair board and fair purposes. Nate noted that the fair board works for the BOCC and the fairgrounds are County property, the fair board only has authority as the commissioners give them authority; this is why the fair board has to provide an accounting of activities etc. to the commissioners as they are answerable to the commissioners at all times. Discussion followed regarding the commissioners' authority over the fair.

Jonathan added that the fair board are volunteers and not employees. He discussed the personnel issues that this is causing and how it relates to the fair as the fair board's authority is for the fair and not other events or personnel. There was further discussion regarding personnel and the fairgrounds and the fair board's authority.

Robert noted that the fairgrounds are owned by the County, not the fair board. There is no ownership stake in the land, the commissioners are the overseers of that. He thinks the main thing to focus on is that per statute the fair board is tasked with purposes relating to the fair, it does not give them responsibility for the grounds or anything else. We can put into framework when they are responsible for the fair as that is all that they are responsible for. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Domke called a recess at 1:34 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:41 p.m.

Commissioner Domke gave a brief recap. Nate thinks that we need to keep in mind that the fair board works under the authority that the commissioners give to them. If they have been managing the fairgrounds year-round then the commissioners have given them that authority, which can be changed. The personnel issues, the fair board will need to coordinate with the fair manager and employees, but this does not change the status of the employees as being County employees. Jonathan noted that the fair manager's job description states that this position is under the fair board, depending on the direction the commissioners want to go, this will need to be corrected as this is a county employee not a fair board employee.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the current and historical authority given to the fair board and how to move forward and how to manage and structure this. Legal provided input that we should look at other counties and neither Nate nor Robert were aware of any case law regarding this. Further discussion followed. Jonathan requested direction regarding the personnel aspect of this situation.

The board wants their intent that there are no fair board employees except those hired for the fair by the fair board and that employees at the fair are employees of the County, not the fair board; the fair board has no direct supervisory role over employees, only coordination with fair employees who are employed by the County.

Commissioner Korn made a motion that we make a clear distinction between the Bonner County employees that they only answer to the Bonner County Board of Commissioners, they may coordinate with the Fair Board on items and that we will be discussing the role of the Bonner County Fair Board, defining it. I also move that the Bonner County employees, fair employees, would answer to the Board of Commissioners, similar to other departments within the County. Commissioner Domke stepped down from the chair and seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Commissioner Domke – Yes; Commissioner Korn – Yes. The motion carries.

Adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Deputy Clerk: *Alisa Schoeffel*