



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GILPIN COUNTY, COLORADO**

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

A regular meeting was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at the Gilpin County Historic Courthouse and online via Zoom. Chair Berumen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Susan Berumen, Chair, Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth, Commissioner Marie A. Mornis, County Manager Ray Rears, County Attorney Brad Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Lyndsey Denton.

Agenda Review. There were no changes made to the agenda.

Conflicts of Interest. County Attorney Benning asked the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) if they had any personal or financial interest with the business on the agenda. Each commissioner responded with no conflicts of interest.

Public or Press Comment. Comments included:

- Jessica Kays, 217 Pine Street, Central City, CO 80427, spoke against Resolution 24-54.
- Wes Isenhart, 750 Karlann Drive, expressed his views on community funding priorities of childcare and the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan).
- Lewis Weaver, 411 Ralston Creek Lane, spoke against Resolution 24-54.
- Phil Gibbs, 2107 Dory Hill Road, expressed support of further negotiations with the City of Black Hawk on the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to help fund the Community Center.
- Jane Sterling, 30 Trail Dust Road, read a statement from Walter Marciniak, 800 Indian Peak Road, that was against Resolution 24-54. Ms. Sterling also expressed her views against Resolution 24-54.
- Norma Jones, 80 Upper Ralston Way, expressed her views against Resolution 24-54.
- Kathleen Balfour, 392 Tchaikovsky Road, read a letter from Rudy Garcia, 991 High Point Circle, in support of free speech.
- Jack Van Son, 15725 Highway 119, spoke against Resolution 24-54.
- Bruce Parman, 529 High Point Circle, read a letter on behalf of Claire Hirsch, 2580 Coyote Circle, against Resolution 24-54. Mr. Parman also shared his views against Resolution 24-54.
- Brady Fowler, 20 Cucumber Court, spoke against Resolution 24-54.
- Eric Douglas, 1327 Golden Gate Drive, spoke against the proposed City of Black Hawk IGA, but supported further negotiations.
- Donna Okray Parman, 529 High Point Circle, spoke against Resolution 24-54.
- Celia Wilson, 208 Howe Court, spoke against the proposed City of Black Hawk IGA.

There being no further comments in-person nor online, Chair Berumen closed the meeting to public or press comment.

Consent Agenda. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to adopt the consent agenda, which included the Clerk & Recorder's March 2024 End of Month Report and approval of the meeting minutes for March 26." Commissioner Mornis seconded the motion,. The consent agenda was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

New Employee Introductions. There were no new employee introductions.

Proclamation for Child Abuse Awareness Month. Paige Sons, Child and Adult Protection Program Manager, Caitlan Mitchell, Caseworker II, and Marie Cosby, Caseworker II, presented the proclamation for Child Abuse Awareness Month in Gilpin County. The premise of Child Abuse Awareness Month emphasizes collaboration to create a narrative of hope and support for children and families. Commissioner Mornis moved to, "Adopt



the Proclamation in support of Child Abuse Awareness Month in Gilpin County, Colorado.” Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Chair Berumen proclaimed April, 2024, as Child Abuse Awareness Month in Gilpin County, Colorado.

Proclamation for National County Government Month. Lyndsey Denton, Deputy Clerk to the Board presented the proclamation to recognize all county officials and employees for the month of April, 2024. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to, “Adopt the Proclamation for National County Government Month in Gilpin County, April 2024.” Commissioner Mornis seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Chair Berumen proclaimed April, 2024, as National County Government Month in Gilpin County, Colorado.

Proclamation for Volunteer Week. Lyndsey Denton, Deputy Clerk to the Board presented the proclamation to support Volunteer Week in Gilpin County. There was discussion around the various volunteer groups listed on the proclamation, and an amendment was made to include all nonprofit organizations. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to, “Adopt the Proclamation in support Volunteer Week in Gilpin County, CO, which is April 21-27th, 2024, with the additional Whereas that we honor all volunteers serving in all nonprofits in our community.” Commissioner Mornis seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Chair Berumen proclaimed the week of April 21-27, 2024, as Volunteer Week and encouraged all residents to help volunteer in the community.

Resolution 24-56, Approving Law Enforcement Academy Repayment Agreements. Sean Wheeler, Patrol Division Chief and Sheriff Kevin Armstrong, presented the resolution to approve the Repayment Agreements for three trainees for the Law Enforcement Academy (Academy). This is a 12-week training program that allows trainees to become a POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) Certified Deputy and eligible for advancement within the Sheriff’s Department; which mitigates liability risks to Gilpin County, and elevates the quality of service to the community. To date, the Sheriff’s Office has sent 6 Detention Officers to the Academy, all of whom were successful and remain employed. It was clarified that if the employee leaves within 2 years after the agreement, they must repay the fees associated with the training. Chair Berumen asked for a motion. Commissioner Mornis moved to adopt Resolution 24-56, “Approving Law Enforcement Academy Repayment Agreements.” Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Resolution 24-67, Adopting the New Position of Emergency Communications Dispatch Supervisor. Lyssa Gray, Emergency Communications Dispatch Director, and Chanda Johnson, Human Resources Director, presented the resolution requesting the adoption of a new position in the Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Kevin Armstrong joined for questions and discussion. The position has been budgeted for 2024, and the job description has been revised to suit the needs of the department. There was discussion around internal promotion versus external recruitment and salary ranges. Chair Berumen asked for a motion. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to adopt Resolution 24-67, “Adopting the new position of Emergency Communications Dispatch Supervisor.” She also expressed appreciation for the Dispatch staff. Commissioner Mornis seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Sheriff Armstrong shared that the week of April 14-20, 2024, is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. He recognized and thanked all of the Gilpin County Telecommunicators/Dispatchers. The Board of County Commissioners also showed their appreciation.

Parks & Recreation Youth Programs 2024 Progress Report. Gabrielle Chisholm, Parks & Recreation Director, gave a presentation about the status of the Parks & Recreation Youth Programs. Jacob Rippy, Youth Programs Supervisor was unable to attend, but Director Chisholm thanked him for helping create the presentation, and noted that a formal update has not been presented to the BoCC since 2022. The Parks & Recreation Department provides youth programs for school-aged children and teens. There has been a 50% increase in total enrollment in the school-aged program since 2019, and a 100% increase in attendance in the teen program since the



program began in 2021. She overviewed the various grants that help support the Youth Programs, and the 2024 Youth Programs budget. There was further discussion regarding the programs, grants and staffing.

Resolution 24-68, Authorizing the Submission and Acceptance of a Grant Application for the Childcare Stabilization Success Bonus 2024. Gabrielle Chisholm, Parks & Recreation Director, presented the resolution requesting the submission of an application, and acceptance of bonus funds for the Stabilization Success Bonus Grant from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC). Director Chisholm noted that this grant is the same stabilization grant funding that has been received previously; this is considered a “bonus payment”. There is no match requirement for the grant, and the amount of funds being awarded will be determined by the CDEC. The funds will be used towards summer camp supplies and new classroom furniture. Chair Berumen asked for a motion. Commissioner Mornis moved to adopt Resolution 24-68, “Authorizing the submission and acceptance of the Childcare Stabilization Success Bonus 2024 Grant Program.” Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

County Technical Services, Inc. (CTSI) 5-Year Loss Analysis Presentation. *This item was moved earlier on the agenda during the meeting.* Dana Foley, Sr. Loss Control Representative for CTSI, gave a report on the 5-Year Loss Analysis for Gilpin County’s insurance plans. Gilpin County participates in their County Workers’ Compensation Pool (CWCP), for Workers’ Compensation coverage, and the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool (CAPP), for property, vehicles and liability issues. He noted that the automobile claims are the most prominent over the short-term and on the 5-year trend. This is pool-wide trend, not just in Gilpin County. A safe driving course was conducted for staff last year that was successful, and he hopes the number of claims will trend downward. He recommended to consider installing dash cameras for higher exposure vehicles, which can provide vital information for insurance claims. There were questions for Mr. Foley regarding insuring a commercial/commissary kitchen, and to have the CTSI trainings recorded so staff can access them on their own time. There was discussion about Colorado Website Accessibility Law, and the statutory duty of the commissioners to tour the county jail annually.

County Attorney’s Report. *This item was moved earlier on the agenda during the meeting.* County Attorney Benning gave his report. Items included:

- Water rights investigations and working with consultants on several matters.
- Roads Memo, and on litigation involving road matters with the private practice attorney handling, with County Attorney Benning assisting.
- Working with Public Works and CTSI on utility truck damage estimate.
- Revised the Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Academy Repayment Agreements
- Assisting Administration staff with the Website Accessibility Law.
- Considering a new ordinance or revisions to existing County Ordinance based on pending legislative regarding massage businesses and their employees.
- Researched and recommended Statewide Internet Portal Authority, which the State of Colorado administers, for processing payments for County departments.
- Election matters and election messaging with Administration and the Clerk and Recorder.
- Reviewed several contracts, followed up with contactors, and finalized certain additional contracts.
- Reviewing how best to work with various entities to identify qualifying fire suppression ponds in Gilpin County through historic maps or other evidence for this purpose.
- Drafting Noxious Weed Ordinance pursuant to recent legislation update.
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Introduction to Gilpin County’s New Judge. *This item was moved later on the agenda during the meeting.* Gilpin County’s new judge, Timothy Lane, was introduced to the BoCC. He was appointed by Governor Polis as the Gilpin County Judge in the First Judicial District in December 2023. Judge Lane shared his history within the law field, and had served in Gilpin County previously in the First Judicial District Attorney’s Office, prior to his most recent work at the Colorado District Attorney’s Council, focusing on policy work and jail reform bills. He chose to come back to Gilpin County over other opportunities, and is thrilled to be back in the community dealing



with individuals in the courtroom. He spoke highly of the culture, attitude, and community of Gilpin County. He shared that he is also serving on the Board of Directors for Gilpin Mountain Kids, Early Learning Center; the new childcare nonprofit center. The Board thanked him for his work and openly welcomed him.

County Manager's Report. County Manager Rears shared his report, highlighting the upcoming work sessions and topics. Other items included:

- The work session for April 15, 2024, at the Timberline Observatory, was discussed and decided to have it as an informational work session with staff for the BoCC. The public is welcome to attend, but no formal public comment will be taken during the work session.
- Belvidere Theater Tour that is scheduled for April 16th, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
- The IT Specialist position is still open, and the RFP (Request for Proposal) has been released for the IT service contract
- There will be a Building Plan Review and Inspection Services Community Town Hall at the Historic Courthouse on Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. It will be an opportunity for the public to voice their concerns and have discussions with the Building Official consultants and the Community Development team.
- Staff/BoCC Listening Session with the Sheriff's Office, and stated that other departments' sessions will be scheduled soon
- Grant Management Report - 39 active grants and 10 are pending decision
- Community Engagement Report - 161 subscribers to the Gilpin Observer newsletter
- The Gilpin County Slash Site will open 2 weeks early, on April 10th, 2024, to help with the fallen trees from the recent windstorm. He noted the cost to open early would be minimal and cost savings would be offset by salary savings in the department with open positions.
- There has been no response to the counter proposal from the City of Black Hawk regarding the proposed IGA to help fund the Community Center.
- County Manager Rears announced, as authorized per Resolution 24-54, to suspend the Electioneering on County Owned Property Policy, and the policy will be brought back to the BoCC to be re-released at a later date.

Public or Press Comment. Chair Berumen opened the meeting to public or press comment. Comments included:

- Kathleen Balfour, 392 Tchaikovsky Road, expressed her views i on several items.
- Donna Okray Parman, 529 High Point Circle, spoke against the resolution about the electioneering policy and against the employee handbook's guidelines regarding campaigning.

There being no further comments in-person nor online, Chair Berumen closed the meeting to public comment.

Board of County Commissioners Report.

- Commissioner Mornis made a statement to the Board of County Commissioners, and her request to rescind Resolution 24-54, Electioneering Policy. She will attend the DRCOG (Denver Regional Council of Governments) event on April 11, 2024, where Gilpin County is being highlighted for Broadband efforts. She attended the Listening Session with the Sheriff's Office staff and the other Commissioners on April 2nd.
- Commissioner Hollingsworth responded to the City of Black Hawk IGA comments and pointed to the BoCC's response available on the county website. She shared some various ways that Gilpin County is working with the City of Black Hawk and the City of Central, as well as other neighboring jurisdictions. In response to public comment, the Nederland IGA is for sheltering for emergencies, and it is pending due to possible legislative updates. She thanked the public for taking the time to speak to the Commissioners and welcomes residents to speak their mind on topics. She attended the recent Central City Council meeting, Jefferson Center for Mental Health Board meeting, along with various CCI and



CCAT legislative meetings. She attended the CTSI Board meeting, elections security training (EPIC) with Clerk & Recorder staff attended as well. She will be attending the Mountain Rails meeting in May, and has been asked to present on Colorado Natural Heritage.

- Chair Berumen responded to public comment about the CTSI report for constitutional violations, and clarified those were Pool-wide violations, not by Gilpin County. She reiterated the ways in which Gilpin County is working with the municipalities, and the invitation is open for both cities to the joint quarterly meetings. She attended various CCI and CCAT legislative session meetings and steering committees. She attended the Sheriff's Office Listening Session, and the Executive Committee meeting with TRIAD Bright Futures.

Notice of Public Meetings. Chair Berumen shared the upcoming public meetings:

- April 15th Work Session at 6:00 p.m. at the Timberline Fritz Peak Observatory, 19126 CO-119, Black Hawk, CO 80422
- April 16th Work Session at 9:00 a.m. in the BoCC Meeting Hall, 203 Eureka Street, Central City, CO 80427
- April 16th Belvidere Theater Tour at 5:30 p.m., 101 Nevada Street, Central City, CO 80427
- April 30th regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the BoCC Meeting Hall, 203 Eureka Street, Central City, CO 80427

Commissioner Hollingsworth had a request to explore the potential of a culvert crew based on feedback from the Public Works Listening Session. The other Commissioners agreed to the request, and County Manager Rears said he would work with the Public Works Director.

Adjourn. There being no further public business to come before the Board, Chair Berumen adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Approved this 30th day of April, 2024.

A signed and recorded copy of these minutes are available through the Clerk & Recorder's Office via Reception Number 176399.