

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

January 23, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on January 23, 2020, at the Gilpin County Courthouse. Chair Pro-Tem Ron Engels called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. In attendance were Chair Pro-Tem Engels, Commissioner Linda Isenhart, County Manager Abel Montoya, County Attorney Bradford Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate. Chair Gail Watson joined the meeting via telephone at 10:12 a.m.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant Application Discussion.** County Manager Montoya stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) could be covered by the upcoming Comprehensive Plan, for which Gilpin County has received a grant of \$150,000.00 from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The BoCC directed Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington to apply for the HMP grant he had presented to the Board on January 21, 2020, but noted that the work would be done by DTJ Design under the Comprehensive Plan. Emergency Manager Whittington agreed it could become one component of the overall Comprehensive Plan, but that it must be examined and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Lengthy discussion followed, weighing the benefits of beginning the HMP process now or waiting until a contractor had been hired for the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Isenhart said she believed that the effects of climate change made it necessary to begin without delay, but the Board agreed that it made financial sense to integrate it with the Comprehensive Plan. Emergency Manager Whittington mentioned he would begin a rewrite of the Annual Operating Plan later this year.

Commissioner Isenhart moved to support Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington's Hazard Mitigation Plan grant application with the understanding that it will be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Discussion of Comprehensive Plan Grant Application.** County Manager Montoya led a discussion on the many components that would be part of the Comprehensive Plan such as mineral extraction, which the Board would anticipate and address in future applications for any mining or processing of mine tailings. Other components were also discussed, and County Manager Montoya explained how the contractor's team would gather input from the Board, the public, staff and other professionals to bring forward an all-inclusive Plan. He added that much of the surveying and outreach could be done through the County's website.

Commissioner Engels said he thought there was an assumption that Gilpin County is promoting growth and that the Board would need to give the contractor exact input on their position. Community Development Director Stephen Strohmingler said he would list the existing vacant lots in the County, which would somewhat influence where growth could occur, and that a total rewrite of the land use regulations should be part of the Comprehensive Plan. County Manager Montoya said the entire process for the Comprehensive Plan would likely take 20 months to complete.

**Shooting Range Discussion.** Community Development Director Stephen Strohmingler said he had contacted an official at Colorado Parks and Wildlife to ask why Gilpin County's grant application for a shooting range had been denied last year, and what could be done to improve a future application. He was advised that Gilpin County would need letters of support from other entities in the area and would need to closely define the days and hours the shooting range would be restricted to law enforcement and when it would be open to the public. County Manager Montoya said it could be more promising to co-locate a joint shooting range, perhaps with Clear Creek County. Commissioner Watson agreed and said the chances of being awarded funding for a regional range were excellent, rather than a small one in one county.

**Broadband Grant Application with USDA.** Gilpin County Business Analyst Jaime Tirado gave an overview of the process to apply for and the requirements to receive a grant from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help fund the installation of fiber for broadband service. County Manager Montoya added that staff is trying to gauge the interest of larger providers, saying they might be inclined to work with Gilpin County on a loan basis or a government subsidy that would pass through the County. Commissioner Watson recommended sending the request for proposals (RFP) to Mountain Broadband, and USA Communications and Century Link. The Board agreed to pursue a USDA grant.

**800mhz Radio Updates.** County Manager Montoya informed the Board that long-term financial assistance was available for agencies needing to purchase 800mhz radios and that it might be a good option for the Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD). Also, a loan program for radios could help TFPD with radios, and could save approximately \$200,000.00

**Federal Aviation Administration Discussion.** Commissioner Watson stated that resident Donna Okray Parman was contacted by the CEO of Centennial Airport regarding the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and that Ms. Okray Parman had recorded the conversation, which she shared with Commissioner Watson. The CEO suggested the County file an injunction against the FAA and consider an amicus brief or a petition for review. Commissioner

Watson asked County Attorney Bradford Benning to contact the CEO and provide financial implications to the Board at their February 4, 2020, meeting.

**Discussion of Historic Preservation Advisory Commission Ordinance Updates.** Historic Preservation Consultant Deon Wolfenbarger spoke about some updates she had recommended to Ordinance #19-01, "Regarding Gilpin County Historic Preservation," regarding the potential impact of noise and vibrations on historic assets and said this policy would eventually become part of the Comprehensive Plan. Brief discussion of other minor changes followed.

Due to a previous commitment, Commissioner Isenhardt left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

**Memorandum of Understanding for Adult and Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Calls.** Human Services caseworker supervisor Taletha Pettis presented the annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Prowers County for their administration of a statewide hotline service to receive calls reporting suspected adult and child neglect and abuse. County Manager Montoya noted that no provisions had changed, only the dates in the MOU. Commissioner Watson moved to approve MOU. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 2 to 0 as Commissioner Isenhardt was absent.

**Adjournment to Executive Session.** Commissioner Watson moved to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a) to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest; and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice on specific legal questions. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 2 to 0. There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Signed this 04<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.