

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

March 12, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on March 12, 2020, at the Gilpin County Courthouse. Chair Gail Watson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. In attendance were Chair Watson, Commissioner Ron Engels, and County Manager Abel Montoya. Commissioner Linda Isenhardt was absent.

**Coronavirus / COVID-19 Update on County's Preparedness Plan.** Sheriff Kevin Armstrong, Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington, Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht, and Jefferson County Public Health Deputy Director Jody Erwin gave a status report on Coronavirus and COVID-19 nationally and statewide. After questions, Coordinator Albrecht said that to date there are no cases in Gilpin County and that she and Emergency Manager Whittington are following Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) guidelines to protect residents, particularly the high-risk sectors of the population.

Emergency Manager Whittington then shared video information on COVID-19 projections, plus good health practices. He said a Disaster Declaration by the Board could make the County eligible for state and federal financial assistance available for expenses related to current circumstances. Discussion followed regarding:

- the County's current stock of personal protective equipment and health supplies
- how to maintain meal service for senior residents
- completion and use of the Continued Operations Plan
- the Board is considering a Disaster Declaration

The Board opened the meeting to questions from the public and responded to them with support from Emergency Manager Whittington and Coordinator Albrecht. Commissioner Watson thanked all who attended the meeting.

**Social Media Platforms.** Business Analyst Jaime Tirado updated the Board on the County's social media platforms, noting that the employee committee met and made some recommendations. A policy for all platforms will need to be coordinated among County departments and elected offices and approved by the Board. The topic will be revisited at a future Board meeting.

**Facility Calendars.** Business Analyst Jaime Tirado informed the Board that he has created an electronic calendar for all reservable public meeting spaces at Gilpin County facilities, and said he would like to preview the program with the Senior Leadership Team for their input. After questions from the Board, County Manager Montoya directed Analyst Tirado to move forward with the project.

**Parks and Recreation Department Training.** Parks and Recreation Department Director Kyle Benedict requested the Board's approval to apply for a scholarship for an academic program for parks and recreation directors that focuses on finances, budgeting and leadership. The two-year course has an approximate cost of \$3,500.00, one year of which would be covered by the scholarship, plus \$500.00 for expenses. More detailed information is needed for a Board decision.

Director Benedict informed the Board that in light of the current coronavirus outbreak his staff was working diligently to keep the Community Center very clean and that they have been talking to facility visitors about proper health safety measures.

**New Public Health/Human Services Building.** Public Works Director Gordon Thompson, Facilities Supervisor Dirk Matthews, Human Services Director Laura Solomon and Finance Director Clorinda Smith spoke with the Board about potential impacts to Gilpin County's revenues related to the coronavirus, particularly what changes might be necessary in remodeling the recently purchased Public Health and Human Services (PH/HS) building. County Manager Montoya reviewed some financial projections he and Finance Director Smith had compiled several months ago, focusing on the amounts currently held in numerous County funds. He then spoke to expected declines in gaming taxes that would be paid to Gilpin County and some large projects already in process. Commissioner Watson expressed disappointment that the heating system for the HHS building was not solar based. County Manager Montoya said he could have the contractor recalculate heating system costs that would include solar.

**Human Services Department Discussion.** Human Services Director Laura Solomon said she and Senior Services Supervisor Mary Ellen Makosky have discussed an appropriate time frame to make changes to the Meals on Wheels program due to the coronavirus outbreak. On March 6, Director Solomon attended the Seniors luncheon at the Community Center and advised them that other options for meals were being discussed. County Manager Montoya noted the declaration by the governor included funding for the SNAP (food stamp) program.

The discussion with the Board shifted to advising all County staff that if they are sick, they need to stay home. The Board agreed it was necessary to identify the full range of staff who could work remotely from home and make that option available to them.

**Adjourn to Executive Session.** Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn the Board's special meeting and convene an Executive Session as follows:

- To discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a)
- For the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e).

There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Signed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2020.