

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

March 19, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on March 19, 2020, in an online format. No physical meeting was held. Chair Gail Watson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Chair Watson, Commissioner Linda Isenhardt, Commissioner Ron Engels, County Manager Abel Montoya, County Attorney Bradford Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate.

Agenda Review. The Board added a discussion with a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) representative via telephone, scheduled for 10:30 a.m.

Recovery Planning. In response to recent actions related to the spread of the coronavirus and state and federal orders to close schools and non-essential businesses, the Board addressed the following topics.

Discussion of Financial Projections. County Manager Montoya presented some financial projections he and Finance Director Clorinda Smith had calculated for 90-day and 180-day scenarios. The projections estimated a loss in revenues due to casinos being closed, and large expenditures that could possibly be cut or reduced. The Board said they would need more time to review the projections spreadsheet.

Commissioner Engels thanked County Manager Montoya for delaying any personnel cuts, then moved to direct staff to place an immediate moratorium on any new hires with the possibility of decisions made by the Board on a case-by-case basis, and to place a moratorium on spending on large ticket fleet items, especially if it costs more in the long term by stopping the payments on those items. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Letter to Local Businesses for Small Business Administration Loans. County Attorney Bradford Benning and County Manager Montoya will work together to craft a letter to local small businesses regarding some potential financial assistance from the federal and state governments.

Letter to State and Federal Agencies Regarding Gilpin County's Impending Loss of Gaming Tax Revenue. Commissioner Watson will draft a letter to Gilpin County's congressional delegation explaining that the County is dependent on gaming revenues, and is facing financial hardship with the shutdown of the casinos. The Board agreed it was crucial to act immediately.

Emergency Roles. Commissioner Watson said she had read the Emergency Operations Plan and had sent the two pages most relevant pages to the Board's roles to Commissioner Isenhardt and Commissioner Engels, so all could understand each person's role. The Board and staff will work to identify an employee that could serve as an information liaison between the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Board. Discussion continued about how to disseminate information on emergency services to the public, including holding Town Hall meetings online.

Telephone Meeting with DOLA Regional Representative. County Manager Montoya introduced Chris LaMay, Regional Representative for the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Mr. LaMay said he understands Gilpin County's financial situation of relying heavily on gaming tax revenues. Discussion followed regarding the status of current DOLA grants and gaming impact grants already in process, with County Manager Montoya asking Mr. LaMay to please be a strong voice for Gilpin County in discussions of state and federal funding.

Executive Session. Commissioner Engels moved to enter Executive Session for a conference with the County Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) relevant to County operations. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Commissioner Engels modified his motion to recess rather than adjourn into Executive Session. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the modified motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Extending Employee Pay and Benefits. Commissioner Watson said the following motions relate to Gilpin County's commitment to County functions and its employees. Commissioner Isenhardt moved to extend pay and benefits to its employees through April 3, 2020. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Commissioner Isenhardt moved to include employees on FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) for pay and benefits through March 20, 2020. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 12:43 a.m.

Signed this 31st day of March 2020.