

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

March 24, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on March 24, 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 Isenhart, Commissioner Ron Engels, County Manager Abel Montoya, County Attorney Bradford Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate.

**Agenda Review.** Commissioner Watson added a Board of County Commissioners (Board) update session after the Treasurer's report delinquent property tax interest.

**Coronavirus Recovery Planning.**

Extending Emergency Declaration and Employee Pay Plan. After brief discussion, Commissioner Engels moved to extend the Gilpin County emergency declaration through May 1, 2020. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Commissioner Engels asked if extending the declaration would also extend the current pay plan for employees. Commissioner Watson said the two actions would run concurrently through May 1, 2020. Commissioner Engels made an amended motion to extend the emergency declaration for County offices closure and the employee pay plan through May 1, 2020. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the amended motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Rodeo Riders' Safety at County Fair. Parks and Recreation Department Director Kyle Benedict informed the Board that the vendor for the rodeo at this year's County Fair will not require riders to wear helmets and protective vests. The Board considered making protective equipment a County requirement or replacing the rodeo with a different event. They also instructed Director Benedict to move the County Fair and the Flea Market events to August.

Delinquent Interest on Property Taxes. County Treasurer Mary Lorenz said Governor Polis has announced that for a 30-day period, county treasurers can waive interest on delinquent property taxes, which will not encompass full payments due the last day of April. She hopes he will grant another extension in late April. Late fees are calculated at 1% interest; other options for refunding interest were discussed.

**Board of County Commissioners Updates.**

Census Participation. The Board and Sheriff Kevin Armstrong agreed to set up a public-use computer in the lobby at the Justice Center for residents to participated in the 2020 Census.

Onscreen Message During Executive Session. Business Analyst Jaime Tirado will arrange for a message to be displayed onscreen while the Board is in Executive Session, to inform online meeting attendees that the Board will return to regular session.

Waivers for Employees to Pick Up Prescriptions. County Attorney Bradford Benning said the County's insurer, County Technical Services, Inc., has shared a waiver form to use, if employees want to pick up prescriptions for residents. This topic remains under consideration.

**Minutes.**

February 18, 2020. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the February 18, 2020 minutes as amended. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

March 3, 2020. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the March 3, 2020 minutes as amended. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

March 17, 2020. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the March 17, 2020, minutes with the adjustments suggested. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

The Board directed Deputy Clerk Cate to use each Commissioners' signature stamp to sign the minutes.

**Recess to Executive Session.** Commissioner Isenhart moved to recess into Executive Session at 9:44 a.m. to discuss a water matter and an annexation matter per:

- C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) for a conference with the County Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions;
- C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators;

- C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a) to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest

Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. The Board adjourned Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. and resumed the special meeting.

**Regular Session—City of Black Hawk Annexation Documents.** County Attorney Bradford Benning said the Board has reviewed the documents the City of Black Hawk had submitted in their annexation application for some property on Lake Gulch Road. The entities involved are the City of Central, the City of Black Hawk and Gilpin County. Commissioner Watson spoke on behalf of Commissioner Isenhart and Commissioner Engels and said that although the Board has known for years about the dangers of being dependent on one industry, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that the County has to embrace economic diversification such as the Black Hawk Whiskey Resort. While the Board understands that Central City has some issues with the annexation, the Board feels it is in the County's best interest to move forward on this project. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the Consent to Annexation Agreement by the County of Gilpin for the Lake Gulch Road property, contingent on final negotiations on the Terms Sheet. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Letter Regarding Small Business Administration Loan Program.** Commissioner Engels said he has crafted a letter to Gilpin County's congressional delegation and the Small Business Administration (SBA) regarding the SBA's practice of excluding casinos from their loan program. Also, the Clear Creek Economic Development Council has sent notice that loans are available. The Board will address both groups about interest rates being too high.

**Public Health Update.** Gilpin County Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht and Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) Deputy Director Jody Erwin updated the Board on the number of cases of COVID-19 statewide and spoke about guidance provided by the state. They emphasized that social distancing and sheltering in place were the most effective means of slowing the spread of the coronavirus. Dr. Mark Johnson, Executive Director of JCPH and Gilpin County Public Health Director, joined the meeting and said he was working with other jurisdictions toward more consistent guidelines and public messaging across the Front Range. He added that due to the many visitors to the casinos in Gilpin County, it was being viewed the same as the counties with ski resorts. Gilpin County also has many recreation visitors, causing concern among residents.

Sheriff Kevin Armstrong said he had contacted the US Forest Service for guidance on potentially closing Tolland Road to non-residents. County Attorney Benning will advise the Board soon on their standing to close roads within the County.

**Adjourn.** There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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