

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

March 31, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on March 31, 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. Under the Town Hall schedule topic, Commissioner Watson added a discussion about making the Board's recordings available to the public.

COVID-19, Emergency Operations Center and Public Health Update. Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht cited current COVID-19 statistics and Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington noted the Gilpin County Emergency Operations Center plans to tie into the Jefferson County planning process to support mass care initiatives, plus staff is working on mass care policies for Gilpin County.

Fire Ban Discussion. Sheriff Armstrong said the Colorado Department of Public Health has suggested that rural counties limit permits to burn materials outdoors to reduce potential impacts to people with respiratory concerns. Also, the US Forest Service has suspended all of their scheduled burns. After discussion, the Board agreed an official order to prohibit outdoor burns is not necessary at this time.

Road Closures Discussion. Commissioner Watson stated that the Board of County Commissioners had convened as the Board of Health and had voted unanimously to close three County roads to non-residents: Tolland Road, Apex Valley Road and the County portion of the road to Columbine Campground. The action was necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Gilpin County residents, and of those visitors congregating in these areas.

Public Virtual Town Hall Schedule. County Manager Montoya said Gilpin County's first online Town Hall was held on March 23, with three more scheduled for Mondays on April 6 and 20 and May 4, all at 6:00 p.m. The Town Hall events allow Gilpin County officials to share the County's efforts to provide essential services while most of its buildings and offices are closed. Elected officials, department directors and other staff will attend the Town Hall events to answer questions from the public. After a discussion of sharing recordings of the Board's virtual meetings, Commissioner Engels moved that virtual meeting recordings be retained for 90 days and posted on OpenGov through the County website making them available to the public. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Request for Approval to Hire for Essential Positions. Human Resources Director Lori Schrayner and County Manager Montoya worked from a list of eighteen vacant workforce positions to request the Board's approval to hire only those deemed essential at this time. The Board recommended that some positions will be filled as soon as qualified candidates are identified, and that other positions could be filled soon, with the understanding that the actual work and compensation won't begin until the COVID-19 emergency closure has ended and County facilities have opened.

Legal Status Report. County Attorney Bradford Benning advised the Commissioners on the following legal issues:

- Sheriff's Office on process serving, as the courts are performing limited services at this time. He will contact the Gilpin County Combined Courts for guidance on meeting filing deadlines.
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's policies on child day care and how they apply to services provided at the Community Center.
- Colorado Retention policies on types of public records

County Manager Status Report. County Manager Abel Montoya updated the Board of County Commissioners on the following items:

- County employee virtual Town Hall, April 1, 1:00 p.m., to introduce new directors Lori Schrayner (Human Resources) and Laura Solomon (Human Services) and to answer employees' questions.
- Business Analyst Jaime Tirado gave an onscreen overview of how Gilpin County makes current information available to the public, including video recordings of Town Halls and Board meetings, state information on COVID-19, the County's COVID-19 hotline number, USDA loans and many other services and topics.
- Letter to local businesses about loans and programs available to them. Commissioner Watson added that both US senators' aides, are working trying to establish a waiver making Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans available to casinos.

Board of County Commissioners Status Reports.

Congressional Bills. Commissioner Watson shared Congressman Joe Neguse's update on three house bills to address COVID-19 testing and research, putting families first for unemployment insurance, and emergency relief bill. She has emphasized to him that restricting casinos from loan programs is about jobs; she noted that the CARES Act SBA loan is more like a grant, as it is a forgivable loan if used to pay employees.

Notice of Public Meetings. The public meetings in the upcoming two weeks that could be attended by more than one Commissioner and at which public business may be discussed will include:

- Board's regular meeting on April 7, 9:00 a.m.
- twice-weekly special meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. during the COVID-19 pandemic

FAA Metroplex Update. County Attorney Bradford Benning said that on March 20, Gilpin County, Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority, the City of Greenwood Village, and Mountain Aviation, Inc. filed a joint Petition for Review in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit challenging the Federal FAA's decision to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the FAA's Denver Metroplex Project (flight paths). The Court accepted the filing and issued deadlines for procedures.

Minutes.

March 12, 2020. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2020. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 2 to 0, as Commissioner Isenhart was absent on March 12, 2020.

March 19, 2020. Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2020. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

March 24, 2020. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2020, as amended. After discussion, Commissioner Engels amended his original motion and moved to accept Commissioner Watson's additional edit. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the amended motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

March 26, 2020. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2020, as updated. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Adjourn to Executive Session. Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn into Executive Session under 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 on essential services. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Signed this 07th day of April 2020.