

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

April 2, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on April 2, 2020, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Gail Watson called the meeting to order at 9:01 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.

**Effective Message.** Commissioner Watson noted that during the County's employee town hall on April 1, Library employee Debra Benitez used a background screen that said, "You're not stuck at home, you're safe at home," which is a great reminder to take distancing very seriously. We want Gilpinites to be social, so they should use their devices to join us.

**Agenda Review.** County Manager Montoya added a 10:30 a.m. discussion with Chris LaMay, Regional Director for the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, to discuss Gilpin County's financial concerns due to closed casinos.

**COVID-19 Update.** Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht gave current statistics for COVID-19 cases in the state and noted there are no confirmed cases in Gilpin County at this time. She has called Pitkin County and others about testing and is waiting to receive information from them. Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington said the Emergency Operations Center had a reorganizational meeting on April 1, with the State of Colorado and DHSM and looked at the cascading effect of the situation, now at day 18 of Level II activation. At the meeting, Sheriff Armstrong signed authority over to the Incident Command Team. Black Hawk Emergency Manager Chris Woolley has said he will work in coordination with the Unified Command Team.

**County Fair and Flea Market Frenzy Update.** Parks and Recreation Department Director Kyle Benedict and Special Events Coordinator Lysianne Peacock met with the County Fair Committee, but will hold another to include representatives from High Country Auxiliary to determine new dates for the Fair and the Flea Market Frenzy, likely in August.

**Board of County Commissioners Virtual Town Hall Agenda.** CSU Extension Agent Jennifer Cook demonstrated a PowerPoint presentation of Gilpin County's Virtual Town Hall events that will include a link for questions. Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington recommended that Extension Agent Cook work with Joint Incident Command and Public Information Officer Cherokee Blake to tie Central City and Black Hawk and current information to the presentation. County Manager Montoya said today's demonstration was an introduction and it will be shared with others who are participating and the final product sent to the Board.

**Board of Human Services.** Commissioner Engels moved to recess as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Board of Human Services. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Resolution #20-05, Approving a Change in Use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Funds.** Human Services Director Laura Solomon requested the Board Human Services' approval to ask the Colorado Department of Human Services for more flex in the use of Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) in response to emergency disbursement problems. County Attorney Benning explained the purpose of the Resolution and how it would mesh with the State's program for assistance related to the COVID-19 disaster. Commissioner Engels moved to adopt Resolution #20-05, "Approving a Change in Use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Funds." Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Board of County Commissioners.** Commissioner Isenhart moved to adjourn as the Board of Human Services and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

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

- Work continues with vendors about delaying some expenditures.
- Commercial Appraiser Consultant Rich Jortberg will work with County Attorney Benning to help the County receive funds based on changes to property valuation legislation.
- A conference call with will help all parties coordinate their positions on the FAA Petition for Review.
- Work continues with the clerk and recorder on providing remote services.
- Work continues with Parks & Recreation on potential issues affecting summer youth programs and the State requirements on those programs

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

Human Services Department. Director Laura Solomon and Business Analyst Jaime Tirado demonstrated the departmental report format on the OpenGov section of the County's website. Director Solomon and staff provided data on numerous services which was imported by and displayed on OpenGov.

Stretch Break. Commissioner Watson called for a stretch break from 9:56 a.m. to 10:03 a.m.

Trash Transfer Station Update. Public Works Director Gordon Thompson said as the emergency closure continues, it has become apparent that the trash transfer station will have to set a limit of three bags of household trash per trip. He also plans to make available an open-top container for cardboard, as many residents have ordered food and other items and need to dispose of the shipping boxes. County Manager Montoya said the essential services page of OpenGov would be updated to provide this information to the public.

Human Resources Department. Director Lori Schraye has collected availability data on all Gilpin County employees to match with a list of needs from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to utilize more employees' skills. Teryx, Inc., set up a shared drive available to the SLT for this process.

Teryx, Inc. Tobias Tonelli and Jessica Kays of IT provider Teryx, Inc., listed the number of laptops that had been ordered to facilitate more employees working from home during the emergency closure. They are working to provide access to the County's network to mirror employees' normal work stations and help them prepare for a new online voucher system for accounts payable. Sheriff's Office Administrative Manager Cherokee Blake has ordered only two or three cell phones and devices to help employees with their work.

Community Development Department. County Manager Montoya said Community Development Director Stephen Strohminger will hold a virtual stakeholder task force meeting on the County's Comprehensive Plan and will provide updates to the Board. He will also report on the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission's current projects.

**DOLA Update.** Chris LaMay, a Regional Director at the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), spoke with the Board about SBA and CARES Act loans that are available to businesses, but not casinos. The Board emphasized that approximately half of Gilpin County residents are employed at casinos and asked what assistance might be coming to the two Colorado counties that rely on gaming funds. Director LaMay said he knew DOLA Director Garcia was aware of the problem and is looking at what other types of businesses are not covered by these packages. County Manager Montoya said Gilpin County's losses would be considerable this year, but next year it will be significantly more. Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington asked Director LaMay to coordinate with him on information.

**2020 Expenditures Update.** County Manager Montoya and Finance Director Clorinda Smith displayed a list of expenditures that could be decreased or delayed to offset the loss of revenue due to the casinos being closed. They worked with the Board and some department directors to produce a final list of categorized expenditures that was contingent on input from County Attorney Benning.

**Public / Press Comment.** Randy Beaudette, reporter for the Weekly Register-Call was given clarification on some components of the OpenGov section of the County's website for essential services.

**Adjourn to Executive Session.** Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn into 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). Commissioner Isenhardt 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 11:37 a.m.

Signed this 07<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.