

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

April 9, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on April 9, 2020, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Gail Watson called the meeting to order at 9:06 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.

**Gilpin County COVID-19 Case.** Commissioner Watson shared that Gilpin County has its first confirmed COVID-19 case, and advised all to take this to heart and to continue practicing cautionary measures. The Gilpin County Emergency Operations Center will issue a press release soon.

**Public/Press Comment.** *Weekly Register-Call* reporter Randy Beaudette referred to Clear Creek County's probable roads closure later today and asked if the Board knew if would include essential services such as the grocery store. Commissioner Watson said Clear Creek County will discuss the US Forest Service closure and fire bans, similar to some measures Gilpin County will consider later today.

**Treasurer's Monthly Report.** County Treasurer Mary Lorenz reported on operations in her office for the month of February, 2020, saying tax collections were up slightly from the same period last year. She also stated that the Governor's order regarding property tax payments will extend the period to April 30, 2020, and that no interest would apply through that date.

**Comprehensive Plan Update.** Community Development Director Stephen Strohmingler updated the Board on the status of work being performed on the County's Comprehensive Plan by contractor DTJ Consulting, Inc. Upcoming steps include an April 14 task force meeting, an initial review by the Planning Commission and an online public input forum.

**Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Commission Update.** Community Development Director Stephen Strohmingler gave the following updates:

Planning Commission—The members will soon attend an online work session with DTJ Consulting, Inc., for an initial overview of the draft Comprehensive Plan followed by a report to the Board.

Historic Preservation Commission—There are currently no new items on the agenda, but HPC is hoping to meet with Kim Grant of Colorado Preservation Inc., regarding the East Portal work cabins. HPC is updating their list of projects.

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

**Board of Health Order Imposing Open Fire Ban and Shooting Restrictions in Gilpin County.** County Attorney Bradford Benning gave a brief overview of a potential ban on open fires and shooting within Gilpin County, in step with the US Forest Service and other area agencies, to lower the likelihood of having to use County resources on emergencies other than COVID-19. Commissioner Watson noted that the US Forest Service has closed a 5-state region to fires, an unprecedented action. Commissioner Engels moved to adopt Gilpin County Public Health Order #20-02, "Imposing Stage 1 Fire Ban and Shooting Restrictions in and for Gilpin County, Colorado." Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

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

**Executive Session.** Commissioner Engels moved to recess to Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice on policy matters. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. At 10:22 a.m., Commissioner Engels moved to resume the Board's regular session. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Policy for Remote Access / Technology Compensation.** Human Resources Director Lori Schroyer informed the Board she had been working with the Senior Leadership Team on a plan to put the remaining eight employees back to work whether at home or in their workplace office. Because forty-two employees are working at home and using their own technology, oftentimes upgraded by necessity, she and Finance Director Clorinda Smith have discussed a plan with County Manager Montoya to provide them relief from the expenses of this technology during the COVID-19 emergency closure. After discussion, Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve a \$75 for short-term payment for qualifying employees. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Matching Employees' Skills to Current Departmental Needs.** Human Resources Director Schraye has created a grid of employees, and their skills, not currently working during the emergency closure, plus some open positions that could be filled by those employees. Several matches have been completed so far. County Manager Montoya said Public Works staff will potentially be helping to monitor closed roads with barricades, since the Sheriff's Office is short staffed, and to reduce overtime.

**Employee Compensation Plan Update.** Laurie Graves, of Graves Consulting, Inc., gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the steps her company has taken to compile an updated employee compensation plan. County Manager Montoya said a lot of microdata is used to form conclusions, and that a work session would be needed to understand the data and the recommended changes. He said the County is not intending to take away pay or benefits, but is trying to understanding the best options going forward.

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

- FAA—He will send the Board a draft of the statement of issues to be filed later this month along with several other entities. That filing will then be posted as public information.
- Work continues with vendors of large ticket items to cancel or delay these purchases.
- Work continues with Commercial Appraiser Rich Jortberg on legislation for online sports gaming.
- Work has started with Clerk and Recorder Sahari McCormick on a potential plan to allow record searchers limited access to that office, and a drive-through window for motor vehicle tasks.

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

Colorado Counties, Inc. He will participate in a discussion later today regarding economic recovery and hopes to talk about the devastating financial loss to Gilpin County due to the closure of casinos.

**Minutes.**

Commissioner Isenhardt moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2020. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Public / Press Comment.** Sandy Hollingsworth asked if there were a fund for donations to residents with needs beyond public programs, and if the status of current Human Services funds could be disclosed. Commissioner Watson said requests for assistance by Gilpin County residents are referred to the Human Services Department, as they have ability to coordinate those programs, and that last week the Board had approved an increase in the amount of Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) funding for each qualified applicant. Human Services Director Laura Solomon gave an overview of the current status of some funds plus an increase to the food bank. Donations can be made by a check to the Gilpin County Food Bank and dropped off at a ballot box or handed to the workers at the drive-up food bank.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

ATTEST:

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Gail Watson, Chair

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Sharon Cate, Deputy Clerk to the Board

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Linda Isenhardt, Commissioner

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Ron Engels, Commissioner