

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

April 16, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on April 16, 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 Engels asked to have the Board of County Commissioners (Board) recess from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. to accommodate a separate meeting.

**COVID-19 Update.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington informed the Board that the Emergency Operations Center remains at Level 3, performing situational monitoring and looking ahead at guidance from FEMA and the State, and looking at short- and long-term goals and objectives. Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht cited current COVID-19 case statistics for Colorado and said there are no new confirmed cases in Gilpin County. The Public Health Advisory Board has volunteered to assist Coordinator Albrecht with contact tracing.

**Annual Operating Plan.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington briefly summarized the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) noting the Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control had granted a 30-day extension of the submission deadline to May 1, 2020, due to the COVID-19 response efforts. He said that the local entities involved in the AOP had reviewed and agreed to its content, with one verbiage change in Section 10.4, Duration of Agreement, regarding the requirement of submitting a signed AOP by April 1, 2020. Upon the mutual consent of the DFPC Battalion Chief and the County Sheriff, one or more 30-day extensions may be granted. Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the 2020 AOP. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fighting Fund.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington said the item had been presented in February by Sheriff Kevin Armstrong and that the fee amount requested by the Board is \$5650.23, the annually budgeted amount. Commissioner Engels noted that the Emergency Fire Fund provides coverage for fires that are above a county's resources, then moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fighting Fund for 2020. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

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

**BOH Order #20-03—Closing Gilpin County Roads.** Commissioner Watson said Gilpin County had closed three roads—Tolland, Apex and Columbine campground—to overused recreation areas, as visitors were not observing safe distancing. Discussion followed regarding restricting other than necessary travel in step with the state, preventing the potential overtaxing of emergency responders, and working with Golden Gate Canyon State Park Director Todd Farrow. Commissioner Engels moved to approve BOH Order #3, Closing Gilpin County Roads to Non-Residents. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Recess.** Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn as the Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Sky Blue Construction Change Order #1, Public Health/Human Services Building.** County Manager Montoya informed the Board that Sky Blue Construction has issued Change Order #1 for the Public Health / Human Services building for some concrete work and to increase the contingency fund, increasing the contract amount by \$259,620.00. After discussion, Commissioner Isenhart move to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$1,272,654.00 for Sky Blue Construction's work on the Public Health / Human Services building. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Preview of April 20 Town Hall Slide Show.** Parks and Recreation Department Assistant Director Gabrielle Chisholm gave a brief overview of the presentation scheduled for the online Gilpin County Town Hall on Monday, April 20, 2020, and said a marketing timeline for the Town Halls needed to be established. She received direction from the Board on some changes to the slides and suggestions on marketing.

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

- Next week Gilpin County, the City of Greenwood and the Arapahoe County Airport Authority will file a statement of the issues regarding the FAA's Denver Metroplex. The Statement is in draft form and will be revised to eliminate redundancy of the three entities' issues.

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

Comprehensive Plan. An interagency task force meeting of 53 partners was held on April 14, 2020, to kick off work on the County's Comprehensive Plan, and the Planning Commission met with the contractors that evening to start their process on the Master Plan aspect and Zoning Regulations.

COVID-19 Impact Funding. US Senator Michael Bennet's office spoke with representatives from Colorado Counties, Inc., about front-line financial impact topics, then Senator Bennet joined a call with Vice President Mike Pence to reiterate those discussions for Phase 4 of the stimulus package, and for guidance for Federal and State funding that has been distributed. Gilpin County is anticipating a 50% reduction in revenue, so as the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today* said, Gilpin County is the epicenter of impacts, which could affect the County likely for 10 years. Three large municipalities in the Denver metro area have laid off a total of 1500 workers in the past week.

Also, Senator Bennet encouraged Colorado counties to keep pushing the concept that COVID-19 testing needs to come from the federal level not state or local. Commissioner Watson and any other interested commissioner will talk to Senator Bennet at 1:00 p.m. today.

**Board of County Commissioners Status Reports.**

Notice of Public Meetings. The Board's upcoming public meetings will include April 21, 23, 28 and 30, and May 5 and 19.

**Minutes.**

Commissioner Engels moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2020. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Public / Press Comment.** In response to a question from resident Sandy Hollingsworth about the audio recordings of the Board's meetings being posted online, the Board explained where those postings are on the Gilpin County website, but added they would make them easier to find.

**Recess to Executive Session.** At 11:06 a.m., Commissioner Engels moved to recess into Executive Session in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b), to receive legal advice on policy and contract matters. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Employee Pay.** At 1:22 p.m., the Board resumed their meeting, with Human Resources Director Lori Schrayner explaining parts of the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, which provides Economic Impact Payments to American households. Commissioner Engels moved to implement the personnel policy including the CARES Act with the addition of allowing employees to back fill any part-time hours with their sick leave or vacation time. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Adjourn.** There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
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Gail Watson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Sharon Cate, Deputy Clerk to the Board

  
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Linda Isenhart, Commissioner

  
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Ron Engels, Commissioner