

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

April 23, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on April 23, 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 Isenhardt, Commissioner Ron Engels, County Manager Abel Montoya, County Attorney Bradford Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate.

Message from Board of County Commissioners. On behalf of the Board, Commissioner Watson said that earlier this week the Board had to make the difficult decision to furlough the part-time and seasonal workers in the Parks and Recreation Department, due to a shortfall of approximately \$1 million every month that the casinos are closed. She explained that the Board's first priority is to provide statutory services, and that they deeply regret having to make the decision and they express their concern to those on furlough.

COVID-19 Update. Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington said activities in the Emergency Operations Center are shifting as far as the COVID-19 response, but they continue supporting the County's first responders with Personal Protection Equipment. Also, staff is having conversations on wildfire preparations, policies and procedures for sheltering with social distancing restrictions, and how it could affect evacuations and sheltering plans. Emergency Manager Whittington commended Commissioner Engels on his comments on the KHOW radio show this morning, saying he brought up Gilpin County's concerns and had done a great job.

Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht said the current focus is the County's one confirmed COVID-19 patient, who has moved out of ICU and is in recovery. As to any need for a quarantine related to this case, Gilpin County contracts with Jefferson County Public Health and will do what is necessary. She is working on the Governor's recent orders and on what reopening could include; more guidance is expected today.

Church Ditch Water Lease 2020. County Attorney Bradford Benning presented the 2020 Church Ditch Water Lease, whereby Gilpin County would lease four (4) inches of water to a group of irrigators in the Golden area. The lessee group will pay the County's \$680.00 annual assessment fee. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the 2020 Church Ditch Water Lease as presented. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Comprehensive Plan—Community Workshop. Community Development Director Stephen Strohmingler gave an overview of the agenda for the May 5, 2020, public outreach (online) meeting for the Gilpin County Comprehensive Plan, which will replace the current Master Plan. The long-range planning topics will include land use/zoning, capital improvements, transportation and community engagement. Planning for potential future Open Space will also be addressed. Information about the meeting is available on the County's website.

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

FAA Update. Work continues with Gilpin County's partners—the City of Greenwood, Mountain Aviation and the Arapahoe County Airport Authority—on the Statement of Issues regarding the FAA's Denver Metroplex. The Statement will be filed later today.

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

Slash Operation. The current recommendation is that the slash site at Public Works will open only to local residents in May using existing employees. Public Works Director Gordon Thompson suggested it could open on May 6 to coincide with the trash transfer site schedule, and that accepting slash only from County residents could ensure that it remains a free service. The Board agreed and County Manager Montoya advised Director Thompson to put this information on the website.

Childcare Assistance Program. Human Services Director Laura Solomon requested the Board's approval to purchase credits from other jurisdictions to cover the County's expense for the Childcare Assistance Program, which is currently overspent. Discussion followed regarding the percentages of federal and state funding counties receive for childcare, and the need to increase Gilpin County's allocation. Director Solomon informed the Board that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program is also overspent and that she has applied for every type of funding available to counties. The State has applied for federal funding to cover counties' shortages, but it will be some time before this funding comes through, if at all. After further discussion, Commissioner Isenhardt moved to approve the Human Services Department's expenditure of \$9,750.00 to purchase \$65,000.00 in funding for the Childcare Assistance Program. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Board of County Commissioners Status Reports.

Notice of Public Meetings. The Board's upcoming public meetings will include: April 28, May 5, 12, 19 and 26. The Board will hold work sessions on April 30, May 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Minutes. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2020. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Public / Press Comment.

Weekly Register-Call Reporter Randy Beaudette asked County Attorney Bradford Benning if the lessee on the Church Ditch Water Lease was the Gambino family. County Attorney Benning said the Gambinos are in the group of five or six landowners that lease and divide the water.

The Chat section of today's online meeting included a question asking if owners of second homes in Gilpin County were allowed to travel over the closed County roads to that home. The Board agreed to discuss any potential amendments to the current public health order at an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment to Executive Session. At 9:50 a.m., Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn into Executive Session beginning at 10:00 a.m. in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for a conference with the County Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions, and C.R.S. 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. 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 9:51 a.m.

Signed this 28th day of April 2020.