

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

May 26, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on May 26, 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 Watson moved the Sheriff's Office grant application item from regular session to executive session, noting the Board might have to return to regular session afterward to vote on the possible approval of the application. Also added to the agenda was a conversation on Gilpin County road closures, and a conversation about the County's variance request to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for a potential earlier opening of local casinos.

**COVID-19 Update.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington said Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht is currently in Clear Creek County with Gilpin Ambulance Authority Executive Director Brandon Daruna for hands-on training at their COVID-19 testing site. Testing will begin in Gilpin County on June 2 at the Public Health building at 101 Norton Drive, in a drive-up model for a nasal swab type of test that will include symptom checking. More information will be shared during the County's Town Hall online forum on June 1, 6:00 p.m.

For Coordinator Albrecht, he reported the following: there are currently two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Gilpin County; per the Governor's Orders, beginning on May 27, some restaurants will open at 50% or 50 patrons, whichever is less; children's day camps and youth camps will open on June 1 with restrictions; residential overnight camps will be closed through June with decisions on July and August to be made in June; private campgrounds opened on May 25.

**Public Trustee and Treasurer's Monthly Report.** Public Trustee and Treasurer Mary Lorenz gave the following reports:

Public Trustee, First Quarter 2020. So far, there have been only two mortgage foreclosures in 2020, compared to eight in 2019. Commissioner Engels moved to accept the Public Trustee's First Quarter, 2020 report. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Treasurer—April 2020. The percentage of taxes collected this year through the end of April, 53.31%, in comparison to last year's 70.29%, looks to be skewed data, but the difference is due to a mortgage company paying full-year taxes instead of half-year. In 2018 that percentage was 57.52%, so this year's numbers are on track.

**Extension of Gilpin County Emergency Declaration.** County Attorney Bradford Benning said the Emergency Declaration will expire on May 29, so an extension is necessary to make the County eligible to receive state and federal disaster aid. Commissioner Isenhart moved to extend Gilpin County's Emergency Declaration to June 30, 2020. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Casino Safer at Home Variance to CDPHE.** Commissioner Engels reported on the status of Gilpin County's variance request to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to possibly open local casinos earlier than had been anticipated. The variance request is a package of information and documents describing the County's plan, and what resources and partner agencies will be relied upon for safe operations. County Manager Montoya suggested the Board schedule a special meeting for May 28 for a vote on the variance request, if all of the materials are ready.

**History Colorado Education Scholarship Application.** Gilpin County Planner and Historic Liaison Tami Archer informed that Board that History Colorado has made some grants available for members of historic preservation commissions serving a Certified Local Government, that would pay the registration fee for the NACP Forum 2020 at Home. The County's Historic Preservation Commission would like to have their chair and vice chair attend the virtual Forum. The grants are \$100 per person and there is no match required. Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the grant application. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Legal Status Report.** County Attorney Benning informed the Board that he had been working on the following legal issues:

Variance Request. He has assisted Commissioner Engels and Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht with the legal aspects of the variance request package.

Zoning Matters. The Community Development staff is working on a complaint received about an AirBNB business operating in violation of the State's Safer at Home Order. The County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, currently under development, will address these businesses and other short-term rentals.

Two House Bills. Work has been swift on letters to State legislators on two bills that could greatly affect Gilpin County revenue sources. County Attorney Benning will submit draft letters to the Board soon.

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

Intergovernmental Agreement with Central City and Black Hawk. This Intergovernmental Agreement will outline the equitable disbursement of the forthcoming CARES Act funding, that will be submitted to DOLA. The funding is mostly COVID-19 related and cannot be used to backfill a governmental agency's budget.

State Joint Budget Committee. Colorado legislators met last week and had to slash 10% to 20% of all state-wide budgets, but additional cuts will need to be made. Gilpin County will know more in the coming weeks about which grants will be cut and how it will impact the County budget, which will guide the County's request to DOLA for funding.

**Board of County Commissioners Status Reports.**

Notice of Public Meetings. The Board's upcoming public meetings will include: May 28, May 29, June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Road Closures. Commissioner Watson stated that the Board has received comments from some Gilpin County residents saying there is too much non-resident traffic on County roads. She added that more data was needed on the amount of traffic on Upper Moon Gulch Road, and that there is reportedly an exposed power cable in United Power's right-of-way. County Manager Montoya will work with Public Works Director Gordon Thompson to contact United Power for a solution. Discussion continued on how to gather traffic counts and what action might be appropriate. The Board agreed to add this item to their May 28 meeting agenda.

**Recess to Executive Session.** At 9:55 a.m. Commissioner Engels moved to recess into Executive Session to receive legal advice in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402 4(b), 24-6-402 4(b) (e) and 24-6-402 4(b) (f)(I) and (II). Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Sheriff's Office Grant Application.** At 12:04 p.m., the Board resumed regular session and said they had made only one small change to the Sheriff's Office grant application. Commissioner Watson thanked Sheriff Armstrong and Undersheriff Kapke for the amended application, and said the Board was glad they had found a source to hopefully backfill the County budget for salaries and benefits. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the grant application with one correction and to authorize the Board Chair to sign the grant. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 2 to 0, as Commissioner Isenhart had to leave the meeting earlier.

**Paint Recycling Program.** Public Works employee Nancy Larson informed the Board that the Colorado Paint Recycling Program will take place again on July 30, at no charge to the County or to residents to drop off paints and stains. This year, residents will be scheduled for drop-off times and will not need to leave their vehicle. The Public Works Department will post flyers soon.

**Adjourn.** There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Signed this 02<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2020.