

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

May 28, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on May 28, 2020, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Gail Watson called the meeting to order at 9:04 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.** A letter to some state legislators regarding HB 20-1400 was added to the agenda.

**COVID-19 Update.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington said testing for residents symptomatic of COVID-19 will be available on Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Tuesday, June 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Gilpin County Public Health building, 101 Norton Drive. He thanked all emergency response agencies in Gilpin County for their assistance in arranging the testing site.

Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht said an appointment schedule for testing would be available soon. Information will be shared at the online Town Hall on Monday, June 1, at 6:00 p.m.

**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

**Discussion of Road Closures Order #20-07.** Commissioner Watson led a discussion of Public Health Order (PHO) #20-07, regarding the current closures of Tolland Road, Apex Valley Road, Bald Mountain Lane and Missouri Gulch Road, which will expire on May 29, 2020. Allowing PHO #20-07 to expire would keep the County in alignment with state and federal partners in the use of public lands. Commissioner Engels moved to extend PHO #20-07 to expire at midnight on May 31, 2020. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Consideration and Approval of Final Variance Request to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for Gilpin County Casinos to Reopen.** Commissioner Engels stated he had sent the final updates of Gilpin County's variance request for reopening local casinos to County Attorney Benning regarding health safety measures at one casino that features a specialized card game. The State, via the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), has reviewed approximately 40 similar requests and their response is not expected for likely two weeks. Commissioner Isenhart moved that the Board of Health approve Gilpin County's variance request to CDPHE to reopen local casinos. Commissioner Engels 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. Commissioner Engels moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the above described variance request to open local casinos. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Commissioner Engels thanked all who helped on the variance request and said Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht worked "over and above" to finalize the request.

**Letter to Legislators on HB 20-1400.** The Board discussed a new bill in the house of representatives, HB 20-1400, that would change the way gaming revenues are distributed. County Attorney Benning stated that the bill was potentially threatening to the County and that the method by which the legislation was introduced is not the correct way to amend the state constitution. He has drafted a letter to the bill sponsors and the County's representatives stating several reasons why the bill should not go forward. After discussion, Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the letter as drafted. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Board of County Commissioners Notice of Public Meetings.** The Board's upcoming public meetings will include: June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2020, and Town Hall (online) June 1, 6:00 p.m., with information on COVID-19 community testing of symptomatic residents.

There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Signed this 09<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020.