

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

June 2, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on June 2, 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 Isenhardt, Commissioner Ron Engels, County Manager Abel Montoya, County Attorney Bradford Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate.

**Agenda Review.** Commissioner Watson added to the agenda recognition of soon-to-rotate Public Works Director Gordon Thompson, and an executive session per CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) and(e).

**Public/Press Comment.** *Weekly Register-Call* reporter Randy Beaudette asked if there has been any discussion of reopening churches in the area. Commissioner Watson said the Governor and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have a comment period open until June 3, and hopefully will provide guidance afterward. Later in the meeting, County Attorney Benning said that under the state's Safer at Home Order, pastoral services are allowed if social distancing is observed and if there are less than 10 congregants in the room.

**Recognition of Public Works Director Gordon Thompson.** County Manager Montoya stated that Public Works Director Gordon Thompson will soon retire from Gilpin County, and listed his many accomplishments over the years. Director Thompson held many positions in the Public Works Department working his way up to director and earning the respect of staff and residents. County Manager Montoya also noted his strong leadership skills and that his team always goes the extra mile for him. He said Gilpin County appreciates Gordon's service more than words can express, and thanked him for his hard work. Each Commissioner thanked Gordon for his many years of service and wished him a good retirement. Director Thompson said that the job has been rewarding, though not always easy, and that he was looking forward to retirement.

**COVID-19 Update.** Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht said two residents have already signed up for the COVID-19 testing scheduled for June 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and June 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Gilpin County Public Health building, 101 Norton Drive. Applicants must be symptomatic and appointments can be made by calling the Public Health Office at 303.582.5803. Coordinator Albrecht also stated that there are currently four cases of COVID-19 in Gilpin County and that the modeling data from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment does not look promising for this summer.

Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington said the Emergency Operations Center is working with Public Health to support testing. AT&T dropped off a satellite truck for incident command to assist with cell phone service, which also has a testing platform for future AT&T uses. He continues to collect Personal Protective Equipment and hand sanitizer for the County, much of it through multiple donations, to increase the County's inventory for the next phase of reopening. Manager Whittington also said that Mountain Masks has created 4,032 masks so far, and that he is working with them for the County's soft match for federal reimbursement funds. Commissioner Watson said that similar to Central City, the Board should issue a proclamation when Mountain Masks hits the 5,000 mark.

**Human Resources Items**—Human Resources Director Lori Schray presented the following items.

Resolution #20-08—Proposed Changes to Employee Handbook on Pay and Benefits.

- Sick Leave: Current language as to grandfathered employees no longer applies
- Partially Benefited: New language needed to reflect removal of "partially benefited" classification
- Employees Serving as Emergency Workers: postponed for future decision
- Jury Duty: Employees not returning to work after jury duty must use vacation hours to make their paycheck whole.
- Bereavement Leave Pay: Paid holiday hours should match work hours, per eight- or ten-hour shifts.
- Holiday Pay: Paid holiday hours should match work hours, per eight- or ten-hour shifts.
- Personal Leave: Employees to be given 30 hours personal leave per calendar year; will be prorated for new employees hired throughout the year.
- Pay Statement: Employee pay statements will be provided via the Employee Self-Serve Site in the future.

Commissioner Engels moved to approve Resolution #20-08, "Approving Amendments to the Gilpin County Employee Handbook Regarding Pay and Benefits," with the removal the proposed change for employees serving as emergency response personnel. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Resolution #20-09—401a Plan Change. Updated language in the Employee Handbook requires a change to the 401a Retirement Plan, to avoid benefited employees from losing their retirement benefit due to weekly changes in the number of hours worked. Employees should be classified as either "benefits eligible" or "not benefits eligible."

Commissioner Isenhardt moved to approve Resolution #20-09, "Approving Amendments to Colorado Retirement Association Retirement Plan and Trust Agreement." Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Continuance of Copays to Employees for Telehealth Expenses. Continuing to pay the \$20 to \$25 copay for employees to talk with their healthcare provider via telehealth appointments would give employees the option to speak with their providers which can save time and travel. After brief discussion, Commissioner Engels moved to approve continuing to pay employees' telehealth copay amounts. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Updated On-Call Vehicle Take-Home List**—Finance Director Clorinda Smith presented an updated on-call vehicle list, necessary due to Public Works Director Gordon Thompson's retirement. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the updated list as presented. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Furniture Purchase and Installation at Human Services / Public Health Building and Proposed Contract.** Business Analyst Jaime Tirado gave an overview of the process to select one vendor from a group of six proposals, for furniture at the Public Health/Human Services building, currently under renovation. The selection committee recommended the KI company as the furniture vendor, and Canter as the contractor for installation of the furnishings. After a visual presentation by Analyst Tirado, Commissioner Isenhardt moved to accept the proposed contract with KI, and Cantor and Associates, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$65,229.71. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Presentation of Colorado Attorney General's Office Response to Opioid Epidemic**—Heidi Williams, Director of Opioid Response, Colorado Attorney General's Office (AGO), gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of that Office's Opioid Response to date, as one of Attorney General Phil Weiser's six priorities. A lawsuit was filed against some opioid manufacturer/distributors in 2018 (amended in 2019) that resulted in a settlement to be shared and administered by multiple jurisdictions in Colorado through a grant funding program. Arrangements for other settlements are ongoing. Local governments can approve the main settlement via intergovernmental agreements, with funding to be focused on opioid addiction prevention, education, treatment and recovery.

Sheriff Armstrong stated that 80% to 85% of the inmate population probably has some type of substance abuse problem, and that it also contributes to the problems of the homeless community. Each Commissioner asked questions and made comments about how readily available opioid prescriptions are and how some could be restricted when over-the-counter pain relief is sufficient and much safer. Director Williams will provide additional information as it develops.

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

PH/HS Building Furniture Contract. Details of this approved contract will be finalized soon.

Sports Betting Legislation. New legislation proposed by the Assessor's Offices in Teller and Gilpin counties, regarding the change to casino property values, is being proposed for the current special session, but it is doubtful if it will be addressed.

Limited Gaming Impact Grant Applications. With the work of Finance Director Clorinda Smith and Staff Accountant Lorna Plamondon, County Attorney Benning should be able to finalize the County's application for the annual Limited Gaming Impact Grants through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

Election Intergovernmental Agreements. Work continues on intergovernmental agreements with local entities to be included on the upcoming ballot.

Zoning Matter, 26 Hornblend Road. Legal work continues on the zoning violations at this address. County Attorney Benning is waiting for the property owner's response.

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

CARES Act Funding from DOLA. County Manager Montoya met with the managers of Central City and Black Hawk on June 1, regarding distribution and use of the approximately \$536,000.00 allotted to Gilpin County for COVID-19 expenses. Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington is helping with information on expenses from local emergency response partner agencies. A state information portal for this funding will open later this week; the County will have to opt into the program by July 4, but County Manager Montoya hopes to accomplish this earlier with assistance from County Attorney Benning. Leaders will need to make decisions on either the reimbursement of expenses or to start new programs to use those funds.

Monthly reports. No new monthly departmental reports have been submitted, but all current reports can be found on the County's website. In the Community Development Department, building permit numbers have been increasing slowly, and the number of Jail bookings is down. There were 286 in April of 2019, and only five in April 2020.

## **Board of County Commissioners Status Reports.**

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

NACo Annual Dues. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to pay the annual dues for the National Association of Counties.

### **Minutes.**

Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2020. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

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

Commissioner Engels moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for May 26, 2020. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Adjournment to Executive Session.** Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with:

- C.R.S. Section 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. Section 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 11:00 a.m.

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