

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

October 21, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on October 21 2020, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Gail Watson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.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. The Board added the Black Hawk Tramway shuttle operations to their discussion of potential restrictions.

Resolution #20-21, "Supporting USFS Stage 3 Closure Order for Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Gilpin County," for Road Closures to Public Lands Due to COVID-19 and High Fire Danger. Commissioner Watson stated that due to the unprecedented fire danger in Colorado, the US Forest Service (USFS) closed the national forests in Larimer, Boulder, Clear Creek and Gilpin counties as of midnight, October 20, 2020. The Stage 3 Closure Order closed the forests to all persons other than residents within the forests, and the USFS' list of excepted travelers. The USFS has provided an additional \$10,000.00 to Gilpin County for the Sheriff's Office to patrol roads leading to and within national forests, plus the USFS will bring in an additional five law enforcement officers.

The Board considered a County resolution supporting the USFS' action. Points of discussion included:

- adding language to the proposed resolution citing scarce resources in the County, particularly dangerous in jeopardizing response capability during the COVID-19 pandemic
- closing roads that lead directly and indirectly to USFS lands and consider purchasing additional barricades
- posting signs on roads and hiking trails communicating the forest and road closures
- evacuating all campgrounds and remote areas
- Golden Gate Canyon State Park remains open, but the Jefferson County section area that is open to hunting is capped at 35 hunters.

Commissioner Engels moved to adopt Resolution 20-21, "Supporting USFS Stage 3 Closure Order for Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Gilpin County. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Restrictions on Private Gatherings Due to an Increase in COVID-19 Cases. Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht advised the Board that if the number of cases of COVID-19 in Gilpin County continues to rise, the State could revoke the County's Protect Our Neighbors status. Falling back to Safer at Home status would restrict the types of games and number of visitors to local casinos, which are already seeing some outbreaks. She encouraged casinos to self-impose some restrictions on their operations, and recommended the Board limit the number of people allowed private gatherings. In response to a question from County Manager Montoya, Coordinator Albrecht added that the Board should have employees work remotely if possible, and to recommend to businesses that they do the same. County Manager Montoya said staff has notified short-term rental (STR) owners there were potential restrictions being considered and that STR agencies should be notified that these restrictions would also apply to them. Commissioner Watson brought up the Black Hawk Tramway shuttle, saying Coordinator Albrecht has reviewed their guidelines, but the shuttles' lack of capacity and the need to distance people would limit each coach to three or four riders. Commissioner Engels said it would be difficult to keep the case count down, but that it was critical to take action and send word to the State, hoping for improvement by November 1.

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

Commissioner Engels moved to approve PHO 20-13, "Amendment 1 to Gilpin County Public Health Order 20-13 Implementing Additional Mitigation Measures in Order to Remain in Protect Our Neighbors Phase of Recovery in and for Gilpin County, Colorado," with the agreed upon language of no more than 10 individuals from no more than two (2) households. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

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.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Signed this 03rd day of November 2020.