

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

October 30, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on October 30, 2020, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Gail Watson called the meeting to order at 11:00 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.

**COVID-19 Update.**

Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht:

- Gilpin County's confirmed case count is now 30, but the positivity rate has gone down somewhat.
- This week 13 people were tested; she is working on increasing the testing facility's capacity at this time.
- She is meeting with others to test asymptomatic people.
- She met with some casinos to increase more testing in this sector.
- Coordinator Albrecht introduced Kelly Schossow, the Public Health Agency's new epidemiologist, who is monitoring data, helping with testing, and is planning for clinics.
- Coordinator Albrecht will respond to Black Hawk city Manager Steven Cole's letter requesting increased communications, and will include Central City.
- The Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment has informed her that long-term facilities and nursing homes are the testing priority and they are overwhelmed with requests.

Emergency Manager Whittington:

- He meets every Thursday with Coordinator Albrecht, Black Hawk Fire Chief Chris Woolley and Central City Fire Chief Gary Allen to relay updates on COVID-19 information and local activities.
- He and Coordinator Albrecht are working to find a laboratory that can deliver faster test results.
- Regarding Gilpin County's assistance with recent fire evacuees, all sheltering at two casinos has ended as they have all found other accommodations.
- There are currently 177 animals being sheltered at the Exhibit Building.

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

**Update to Public Health Order #20-13, as it Relates to Gilpin County's Protect Our Neighbors Status.**

Commissioner Engels said with the local and statewide case count rising, the State is interested in what Gilpin County's casinos are doing to suppress the spread of the virus. In response to the rising count, the Board of Health will consider Public Health Order (PHO) 20-13 Amended 20-13. County Attorney Benning said the Amended PHO 20-13 now includes an appendix with measures intended to maintain the County Protect Our Neighbors status and certification. Discussion followed regarding the specific language of the Amended PHO. Commissioner Engels said the main purpose of the Amended PHO is keeping the case count number down, particularly in relationship to the overall state numbers. Unless the State imposes some significant measures, the rise in cases will impact hospital capacity, which will impact Gilpin County.

Commissioner Engels moved to approve Gilpin County's Amended PHO #20-13, including:

- Appendix 1, which closes craps and roulette tables and reduces a business's maximum capacity to the lesser of either 100 persons or 50% of the fire code capacity in any single enclosed space
- ending alcohol service at 11:00 p.m.
- follow the State's order to limit private gatherings to 10 people or two households.

Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Gilpin County Epidemiologist Kelly Schossow gave an overview of her background and said she was excited to be part of the team and help protect the County.

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

**Letter Requesting Closure of State Parks in Gilpin County.** Commissioner Watson said the US Forest Service has closed the national forests to all uses in Larimer, Boulder, Gilpin and Clear Creek counties. The closure is expected to continue and next week will be warm weather. The Board is concerned that not all public lands in Gilpin County are closed, meaning the Golden Gate Canyon State Park. County Attorney Benning has drafted a letter to the Governor and the Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife requesting such a closure. Discussion followed regarding the content and style of the letter. Commissioner Watson suggested some changes in order to make the letter shorter and more concise. Commissioner Engels moved to approve having Commissioner Watson finalize and send Gilpin County's letter requesting the closure of state parks in Gilpin County. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Employee Newsletter.** Commissioner Watson offered to help create an employee newsletter, saying engagement is part of the Strategic Plan. The newsletter could relay information such as: the current requirements for masks; the election results; budget news, etc. She added that the Board values the employees and takes their safety seriously. County Manager Montoya said Business Analyst Gabrielle Chisholm Gabrielle sends out information on current actions and can build upon this. Also, County Manager Montoya will soon begin a new employee engagement practice—hosting a one-hour online lunch meeting during which employees can ask questions or make comments, and information can be shared. The Board agreed this was a good idea.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020.