

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

November 3, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on November 3, 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.

**COVID-19 Update.**

Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington:

- Gilpin County's case count is 33; positivity rate is 4.98%
- Ten people were tested last week; 37 are scheduled for today.
- Updates on the County's actions were sent to the city managers of Black Hawk and Central City yesterday.
- Manager Whittington is looking at long-range testing and is planning for next year. CARES Act funding could help the County increase its testing capability for next year, but many are hoping for a vaccine by then.
- Gilpin County is waiting to hear from Jefferson County on a local mass vaccination site. A preliminary plan is in place, so now a mass vaccination plan with all local partners is needed.
- Fire evacuation update: at the Exhibit Building there are 131 chickens to be returned to their owners; the Red Cross has complete disengaged, as all people who were evacuated have found other housing.
- Fire control update: the Cameron Peak fire is approximately 65% contained and the East Troublesome fire is at 67%. All evacuation and traffic control orders have been lifted and people are returning to their homes.
- Manager Whittington has communicated current actions with Central City Fire Chief Gary Allen and will talk with Black Hawk Fire Chief Chris Woolley later today.

**2019 Financial Statements and Audit Review.** Jim Hinkle, of Hinkle and Associates, gave a detailed review of his company's 2019 audit of Gilpin County's financial system and documents. He said it was a good audit process that was performed electronically this year. He thanked Finance Director Clorinda Smith and her staff, saying there was full transparency, open communications and timely responses to his company's requests. Mr. Hinkle said he was looking forward to the 2020 audit, with the most significant change likely to be the County's receipt of CARES Act funds.

Commissioner Watson thanked Finance Director Clorinda Smith for her excellent work and for being able to put trust in her; Commissioner Isenhardt and Commissioner Engels agreed. Director Smith said the financial statements for 2019 have been completed and are posted on the County's website along with those of many previous years.

**Third Quarter Public Trustee's Report.** County Treasurer and Public Trustee Mary Lorenz reported on the third quarter of 2020 saying there are currently only two foreclosures for the year. Many mortgages have been refinanced and many houses have been sold, indicating a good market at this time. Commissioner Engels moved to accept the Public Trustee's third quarter report. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Election Update.** Clerk and Recorder Sahari McCormick noted today is Election Day and said some voters have been coming to the Old Courthouse, but they are being directed to the Community Center, which allows for appropriate distancing during the pandemic. As of yesterday, 68% of the ballots sent out have been returned.

**Community Center Campus Reopening Plan.** County Manager Montoya said today's presentation would be the third reiteration of reopening plan for the Community Center campus, per input from the Board and updated information. He said Business Analyst Gabrielle Chisholm has worked hard on the plan that is based on the mil levy ballot question passing. Job descriptions, which will be reviewed by the Board following this presentation, have been expanded to reflect a reduction in staff.

Business Analyst Chisholm shared onscreen the phased approach, which would begin with the extensive cleaning of the Community Center and daily monitoring of COVID-19 conditions. She spoke about the limited days and hours the facility would be open at first, then moving to an increased schedule if possible. The second phase would include more group activities and open hours on Saturdays, plus a slow increase in staff as needed.

Discussion followed regarding fees for memberships and other potential sources of revenues, plus known expenditures. County Manager Montoya thanked Business Analyst Chisholm and the citizen group who has helped with research and outreach.

**Review of Community Center Job Descriptions.** County Manager Montoya and Lori Schrayner, Director of People, Culture and Finance, presented a draft of the jobs that would be needed if the Community Center is able to open in 2021. Director Schrayner shared a list onscreen and discussed each proposed job description, some of which

have already been updated further. The Board agreed that continued discussion of the top positions would be needed.

**Discussion of Gilpin County Draft Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations.** Senior Planner Stephen Strohminger shared onscreen a continued presentation of the draft Comprehensive Plan, resuming today with Chapter 6, Future Growth. Commissioner Watson said the Board would need to see the proposed changes to the Zoning Regulations, plus the Planning Commission's comments and share them with the public.

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

- Opioid settlement funds—updates to the settlement between the State of Colorado's litigation against several opioid manufacturers: There is discussion at the state level on fair distribution of funds to be used only for treatment, with more information expected in late November or early December. Gilpin County will need to determine its impact from opioid addiction and decide if it wants to participate in a local region, possibly with Clear Creek County.
- PHO #20-13, First Amendment, was signed, distributed and posted on the County's website yesterday.
- The County will need a plan and a policy on how to address some road issues.
- There might be the potential for progress on the Lake Gulch Road Intergovernmental Agreement, or possibly a separate agreement with Central City. More information will be shared in executive session.
- FAA / Metroplex (Flight Path) Update: Gilpin County's filing is due November 24. The next milestone, likely in February, is the FAA's response followed by further briefing. Gilpin County can reply near the end of March. County Attorney Benning will send the schedule to the Board and County Manager Montoya.

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

Snow and Ice Removal Program. Due to budget reductions and fewer staff for snowplowing, Infrastructure and Development Services Supervisor Dave Rich has submitted a revised program that includes nine routes plus some backup drivers for emergencies. Supervisor Dave Rich shared onscreen the proposed program and said the main change would be that none of the County roads will be cleared of snow between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., though the staff can still respond to emergencies. County Manager Montoya said the updated program would be posted online for residents.

**Board of County Commissioners Status Reports.**

Notice of Public Meetings. The Board's upcoming public meetings will include: Budget work sessions November 5 and 12; regular meeting on November 17. Also, the Board will tour the new human services and public health building tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

Xcel Energy Work on Dory Hill Road. At Commissioner Engels's request, County Manager Montoya said he will invite Xcel Energy's new customer service representative to a Board meeting.

**Minutes.**

Commissioner Engels moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2020, as presented. 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 October 21, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Public / Press Comment.** Carolyn Collins Petersen said the citizen outreach group has worked to inform voters on the Community Center mill levy question, and has received data from other recreation operations on fees, budgets and bylaws. A report and presentation will be sent to County Manager Montoya and Business Analyst Gabrielle Chisholm tomorrow, then the group would like to meet with the Board.

**Adjournment to Executive Session.** Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (b), to receive legal advice specific legal questions, Executive Session to start at noon. 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 11:44 a.m.

Signed this 08<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020.