

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

November 12, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on November 12, 2020, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Gail Watson called the meeting to order at 8:30 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.

**Resolution #20-25, Rescinding Resolution #20-21, Supporting USDS Stage 3 Closure Order for Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Gilpin County.** County Attorney Benning said that the US Forest Service had been under a Stage 3 Closure Order, but the Order was downgraded on November 10 to a Stage 2 Fire Ban, meaning the national forests are again open to the public. Gilpin County needs to respond to that change with a local resolution. Sheriff Kevin Armstrong said he would be talking to Timberline Fire Protection District Chief Paul Ondr about moving Gilpin County to a Stage 1 fire ban. Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington reported that although the East Troublesome fire in Grand County and the Cameron Peak fire in Larimer County are still burning, responders are downshifting operations due to the slow growth of the fire.

Commissioner Isenhardt moved to adopt Gilpin County Resolution #20-25, "Rescinding Resolution #20-21, Supporting USDS Stage 3 Closure Order for Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Gilpin County." Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**COVID-19 Update.**

Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht:

- Gilpin County's case count is now at 50, with 23 new cases in the past 2 weeks.
- 52 people were tested last week; results will be received any time now. Any new tests after this week should have a 48-hour response time.
- Gilpin County is now in the yellow range on the State's dial. This week's numbers moved Gilpin County to the orange range, but the state moved it back to yellow due to the County's economic situation.

Emergency Manager Whittington:

- There has been a large spike in the number of first responders testing positive for COVID-19.
- The storage freezer for Jefferson and Gilpin counties' vaccines has arrived and Jefferson County will develop a plan to administer to first responders. Gilpin County's Epidemiologist Kelly Schossow will help with Tier 1a and Tier 1b of this plan. The vaccine will be a two-injection system, and both must be from the same manufacturer.
- The vaccine won't be available to the public for several more months.

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

**Public Health Order #20-14.** County Attorney Benning shared a draft of proposed Public Health Order (PHO) #20-14 onscreen, gave an overview of current circumstances and explained the state's COVID-19 dial. Commissioner Engels said Gilpin County's specific restrictions needed to be listed, with an explanation of the impact to residents, casinos and other businesses. County Attorney Benning said Appendix 2 of the Order specifically states there can be no table games open in casinos and that the number of patrons allowed inside at one time has been lowered. Also, vacation rentals and short-term rentals have been restricted. Commissioner Engels said a one-page summary of the very lengthy Order was needed. County Manager Montoya will work with County Attorney Benning and will post a one-page executive overview for improved public outreach. It will include the requirement to wear a mask in all public spaces including Gilpin County property, plus encouragement to limit gatherings to no more than 10 people from two separate households.

County Manager Montoya said that for now, County employees are working from home if they are able to, and are rotating work schedules with other employees to limit the number of people in offices.

Commissioner Engels moved to approve PHO #20-14, Amendment 1—COVID-19 Dial Level Orange (High Risk) in and for Gilpin County, Colorado. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

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

**Adjourn.** There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

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