

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

December 17, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on December 17, 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 Isenhart, Commissioner Ron Engels, County Manager Abel Montoya, County Attorney Bradford Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate.

Celebration of Commissioner Gail Watson's Service. Commissioner Isenhart thanked Commissioner Gail Watson for serving Gilpin County very well for eight years and noted the following attributes, undertakings and achievements:

- Highlights:
 - a passion for creating local transportation for those in need, such as the Gilpin Connect, a program for medical appointments and other needs
 - a commitment to creating a multi-county sport shooting range to encourage safe shooting
 - pursuing purchase and renovation of the new Human Services & Public Health building, with funding from the Department of Local Affairs, facility to be dedicated in February
 - spearheading opposition to the FAA's Denver metroplex air traffic plan over Gilpin County, which is in litigation at this time, led by County Attorney Benning
 - giving freely of her graphic arts background in creating a new County logo and multiple other projects
 - led historic preservation projects such as purchase of the two Red Tail Cabins, designating Lincoln Hills as a national historic site, worked to preserve the East Portal work cabins and the Thorn Lake schoolhouse
 - was always responsive to residents and encouraged them to join the Board of County Commissioners meetings
- County Manager Montoya said Commissioner Watson worked with great team spirit and encouraged employee celebrations. He enjoyed working with Commissioner Watson and Commissioner Ron Engels, who are so appreciated by staff. Commissioner Watson is always willing to go the extra mile, she volunteers in many ways, drives the Gilpin Connect when needed, and has led the Board through the pandemic to date. He told Commissioner Watson it has been a pleasure to serve with her.
- Sheriff Armstrong thanked Commissioners Watson and Engels for their dedication, saying he has been humbled and honored to work with them. Your hearts are in the right place and we will continue your legacy to make Gilpin County better. Thank you.

Further expressions of gratitude, praise and appreciation were given by: Assessor Anne Schafer; County Attorney Brad Benning; Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington; Finance Director Clorinda Smith; People, Culture and Finances Director Lori Schrayner; Eric Douglas; Carolyn Collins Petersen; Patricia Chavez; Sandy Hollingsworth and Deputy Clerk Sharon Cate.

Special words of appreciation from Jill Grano of Congressman Joe Neguse's office noted that Gilpin County is the most communicative in the district, is best represented by its Commissioners, and it has been an honor to see Commissioner Watson's hard work and dedication. She then shared comments that Congressman Neguse read into the Congressional Record. He recognized her as a public servant who proved that hard work and determination are her cornerstones. She works on environmental protection, is a huge asset to her community, and works for the safety of her constituents on broadband and phone service. He is grateful for Gail Watson's service, which will continue to impact Gilpin County for many years.

Commissioner Gail Watson said it has been an honor. All departments have had to work hard and they are a good team. Gilpin County is a great place to live. She thanked the four Commissioners during her tenure: Connie McLain, Buddy Schmalz, Ron Engels and Linda Isenhart. She said there were so many people to thank, then gave special thanks and recognition plaques to Finance Director Clorinda Smith and Deputy Clerk Sharon Cate, who she had the pleasure of working with for eight years and who were exemplary employees and an asset to the County.

COVID-19 Update.

Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht:

- I will miss Commissioner Gail Watson.
- There are four new cases since January 15, and Gilpin County is holding steady in the orange range on the State's COVID-19 dial.

Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington:

- He continues to work with Public Health Coordinator Albrecht to be prepared to administer vaccinations.

Sheriff Armstrong updated the Board on the arrangements for Cody and Shelby Allen's memorial services saying some Grand County deputies would be helping his staff, and that all involved are doing everything they

can to maintain COVID safety compliance. The Allen family has asked that the service at the church be for family and first responders to allow space for safe distancing, and for friend to please attend online or via the giant TV screens stationed at the Fairgrounds. After the church service, the family will receive the public at the Gilpin County Exhibit Building, but will be distanced from them. COVID safety compliance will be mandatory. Sheriff Armstrong thanked the whole community who have been so supportive since the tragic deaths of Cody and Shelby. Commissioner Watson thanked him.

C-PACE Program. Tracy Philip of C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) gave an overview of the program to help finance improvements for energy efficiency to existing buildings and new construction. Central City Community Development Director Ray Rears and Planner Lisa Roemhildt were on hand to answer questions on how the program could benefit Central City. Afterward, the Board thanked them and said they would need more time to work through all of the information presented. The topic was added to the January 5, 2021, agenda.

Gross Reservoir Expansion Comment Letter. County Manager Montoya explained Denver Water's plan to greatly expand the Gross Reservoir, which would adversely affect Gilpin County. Each Commissioner told their concerns with the proposed expansion and worked to write Gilpin County's official letter of opposition.

Assessor's List of County-Owned Properties. Assessor Anne Schafer shared a long list of County-held properties saying they could be sold and added back to the County's tax rolls, but some parcels are small and of little value. The team working on this project is Assessor Schafer, Treasurer Mary Lorenz, County Attorney Benning and County Manager Montoya; they are looking into the assessed value of each, and what the administrative costs of selling these parcels might be. The Board agreed the list of parcels to be sold should be prepared for use.

Assessor's Agreement for Commercial Appraisal Consulting Services. Assessor Anne Schafer presented an Agreement with Rich Jortberg for commercial and casino appraisal, saying his work is known internationally and that he has always given Gilpin County a significant discount for his services. Commissioner Engels moved to authorize Assessor Schafer to manage the contract. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Budget Year 2021 Certification of Levies and Revenue. Finance Director Clorinda Smith presented the annual Certification of Levies and Revenue for 2021, including adjustments for the mil levies for Parks and Recreation and the Library mil levies, effective for 2020 and payable in 2021. Commissioner Engels moved to approve the Certification of Levies and Revenue for 2021. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

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

Annual Renewal App—Last Shot. Deputy Clerk Sharon Cate presented an annual renewal application for the hotel restaurant license for Last Shot, LLC, dba Last Shot. Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the application at the local level, as presented, with a new expiration date of February 28, 2022. Commissioner Engels seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority adjourned and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

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

- ongoing zoning violation cases, with new complaints to follow up on
- parking ordinance: a draft is in progress, with work on petty offense parking violations
- work continues on an intergovernmental agreement between the Library District and Gilpin County
- work continues on the TABOR issue with Finance Director Clorinda Smith

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

CARES Act Funding. County Manager Montoya informed the Board that Gilpin County's original CARES Act grant was \$294,603.00 in round one as administered by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The set-aside/reserve grant amount was \$1,701,084.82, for which Gilpin County is submitting reimbursements. The total of these is \$1,995,687.82, which is the amount Gilpin County has spent to date on addressing impacts from the pandemic.

Board of County Commissioners Status Reports.

Notice of Public Meetings. The Board's upcoming public meetings will include: January 5 and 12, 2021.

Recess to Executive Session. At 10:55 a.m., Commissioner Engels moved to recess into Executive Session beginning at 12:00 p.m. in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. The Board agreed to resume their public meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Gross Reservoir Expansion Impacts. At 3:30 p.m., County Attorney Benning shared onscreen the Board's letter to Denver Water, expressing their views and opposition to the proposed expansion of the Gross Reservoir.

Public Comment. The two local newspapers, the *Mountain-Ear* and the *Weekly Register-Call* requested copies of the above noted letter.

Adjourn. There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Signed this 12th day of January 2021.