

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

February 16, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on February 16, 2021 in an online format, no physical meeting was held. Chair Linda Isenhart called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. In attendance were Chair Isenhart, Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth, Commissioner Web Sill, County Manager Abel Montoya, County Attorney Bradford Benning, and Chief Deputy Clerk Ashley Martin.

**Public/Press Comment.** Laura Jenéy, 80 Willies Lane, Rollinsville, had questions and suggestions about the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations in Gilpin County.

**COVID-19 Update.**

Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht:

- In response to resident Laura Jenéy's question, volunteers at the vaccination site are not needed at this time.
- Gilpin County had three positive cases this week, and is at a positivity rate of 3.9%, remaining in level blue. Testing is on Thursdays at the Gilpin County Public Health Office between 10am-2pm.
- To date, 540 vaccines have been distributed. Gilpin County is receiving 100 vaccines every week for the first round of doses. Registration for the vaccine is available on the County's website and by phone.

Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington:

- Gilpin, Jefferson, Clear Creek counties are working together on a plan for an indoor vaccination site, in case of inclement weather.
- FEMA: Emergency Manager Whittington is starting a Public Assistance application packet. Gilpin County is going to submit quarterly report of COVID-19 costs, for quarterly reimbursements.
- 4,000 free masks have been received.
- Emergency Manager Whittington sent to FEMA a scope of work, in hopes of creating a new position in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), funded through the state to manage vaccine distribution, cost management and direct COVID-19 projects. The position would also take on the roles of looking at EOC process/procedures and documenting those, public messaging and updates. This position, if created, would allow Manager Whittington to work on other non-related COVID-19 business that has been on hold.

**Consideration of Proposal for Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Senior Planner Stephen Strohminger presented a revised version of the County's request for proposals (RFP) from the Board's last work session, as compiled with Emergency Manager Whittington. They will be opening proposals with a selection committee and that group will make a recommendation to the Board. The added back-up documentation and scope of work is staying the same, and with both Senior Planner Strohminger and Emergency Manager Whittington on the project, it has resulted in positive results.

Emergency Manager Whittington explained that once they have Board approval of an RFP, Community Development and the County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) can work together with Sheriff Kevin Armstrong on hand in the event of a tie in contractor selection. Commissioner Sill motioned to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Application.** Emergency Manager Whittington presented a grant application for Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation, that if approved, would fund a slash chipping operation. Timberline Fire Protection District, and the fire departments from Central City and Black Hawk are in support of the application. Human Services Food Bank Coordinator Jennifer Josselyn will work with Emergency Manager Whittington to coordinate, as logs too large to chip will be offered to residents for fire wood. The application requests \$9,716.00 from Ready Set Go Wildland Fire Program. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to accept the "Ready, Set, Go" grant application. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote 3 to 0.

**Sheriff's Office Monthly Report.** Sheriff Kevin Armstrong gave a detailed report on operations in his office for the month of December, 2020, a practice that will continue going forward. The report included statistics on: victim services; significant events; citizen compliments; community initiatives; meals provided in the jail and for Meals on Wheels; jail occupancy; revenue; patrol contacts; and the Communications Center (Dispatch). He noted that Dispatch received a total of 2503 calls for the month. Also, an inventory of the evidence room concluded in the disposal of 9,263 items no longer needed. Sheriff Armstrong said he would add any other information to his report that the Board or residents would like to see. Commissioner Hollingsworth asked if the report will help track new contact requirements under SB 20-217, with Sheriff Armstrong replying that it may, once the details of that reporting are clarified.

**Clerk and Recorder's Monthly Report.** Chief Deputy Clerk Ashley Martin reported on operations in that office for the month of January, saying that revenues in Recordings are up by \$2,837.11 from January 2019, and Motor Vehicle is down by \$33,854.93 from January 2019. The Motor Vehicle division has only one full-time technician doing transactions on a limited appointment schedule, but a part time employee was hired recently and is in training. Motor Vehicle is currently booking five weeks out for appointments. Deputy Martin reported that 2020 numbers overall are up from 2019. It is hoped that delayed revenues will be collected by year end.

**Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report.** County Treasurer Mary Lorenz gave a semi-annual report on the period ending on December 31, 2020. Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the Semi-Annual report. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Public Trustee's Reports: Fourth Quarter 2020, and Annual 2020.** Public Trustee Mary Lorenz reported that in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020, there were only two mortgage foreclosures. There were 650 deed releases for the year, with approximately 180 in the fourth quarter. County Manger Abel Montoya stated that the mortgage forgiveness program is slated to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup>, but that Congress might discuss a stimulus package. Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the Public Trustee's Report: Fourth Quarter 2020 and Annual 2020. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Inspection Certifications for Gilpin Ambulance Authority's Five Ambulances.** Deputy Clerk Sharon Cate introduced Eric Schmidt who performed inspections on all five ambulances for Gilpin Ambulance Authority. The inspections include: medications, equipment and other supplies. Mr. Schmidt reported that all five were in great condition and that Gilpin Ambulance Authority has a great organization. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve the Inspection Certificate for Gilpin Ambulance Authority's five ambulances and the Operations License. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Deputy Clerk Cate was granted authorization from Commissioner Isenhart to use her signature stamp to complete the documents.

**Legal Status Report.** County Attorney Bradford Benning reported on the following:

- 26 Hornblend Road, zoning violation, he has tried to make contact with the property owner to bring multiple junk and road-worthy cars up to legal standards with the Motor Vehicle department. He has not received any communication back from the resident.
- County Attorney Benning will speak with County Planner Tami Archer about marijuana licensing.
- County Attorney Benning is currently working on multiple contracts for the Community Center and the Public Health and Human Services building.
- The County Attorney's Association has an opioid settlement allocation breakdown: State 10%, Local Governments 20%, Regions of Governments 60% and Special Projects 10%. Gilpin County has opted to be included with Jefferson County.
- County Attorney Benning clarified to Commissioner Sill that Gilpin County intends to sell the Black Diamond mining claim to Proximo (distillery). The quitclaim deed is on the Board's next agenda for approval.

**County Manager Status Report.** County Manager Abel Montoya reported on the following:

- The Public Health and Human Services building dedication is set for tomorrow at 1:00 p.m., but is not open to public yet. He will work on a schedule to allow time for public tours. The elevator contract has been settled, and it is hoped that staff will be able to move into the building soon. The Certificate of Occupancy is completed and the only outstanding issue is carpet on stairs.
- Proposed Gross Reservoir Expansion Project. There is a work session planned tomorrow to discuss the expansion that is expected to take five years to complete. Gilpin County's biggest concern with this project is the extreme increase traffic on Highway 119, and the removal of trees that will need to take place to complete project. FIRK is involved to review/approve a tree removal plan in July 2021. County Manager Montoya then shared a slide show of the project overview. Boulder County's approval will be in by August 2021. Commissioner Hollingsworth commented that it sounds like a big impact on Gilpin with very little benefits and that the Board will be bringing questions tomorrow.
- A \$97,000.00 grant for the food bank has been received. Human Services Food Bank Coordinator Jennifer Josselyn will coordinate the refurbishment of the current public health modular building for the food pantry. With the \$40,000.00 received last fall, a concrete pad was poured, additional electricity was installed, a new roof was installed, and achieving ADA compliance for a walk-in food freezer. County Manager Montoya stated that \$250,000.00 then over 1 million dollars of grant/donations have been received through Gilpin County community donations and state dollars. This is an incredible amount of generosity, especially during the tough times we are going through right now. Coordinator Josselyn said the grants received can only be used towards renovations and buildings not staffing, but she is currently working on a \$10,000.00 grant that would allot \$2,000.00 for staffing, with \$8,000.00 that must be spent on Colorado Proud produce and meat.
- Overview of Sale of County Property. A list of Gilpin County-owned property was turned over to the GIS mapping staff. In phase one, 30 of the 70 properties currently have maps. County Manager Montoya is working with County Planner Archer, Senior Planner Stephen Strohminger and Attorney Benning on detailed information. There are some parcels that Central City and Black Hawk might be interested in purchasing. The negotiation of sales of those properties will be presented to the Board soon.

**County Fair Date for 2021.** Parks and Recreation Director Gabrielle Chisholm said she had met with Norma Jones, Casey Newman and Larry Sterling last week to discuss the planning process for the 2021 Hometown County Fair. Director Chisholm suggested the Fair date be set for July 24, with an update to the Board in mid-March or April for an events list. Volunteers are planning no-cost old timey events. Commissioner Sill moved to approve July 24, 2021, as the County Fair date. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Shout-out Award.** A Shout Out was made to County Planner Tami Archer by Senior Planner Stephen Strohming, citing her exceptional work and for completing the 5 Star Program online permitting application process in only two weeks, allowing the permitting to be operational by early April. Almost all permits managed through the Community Development Department are online at this time. He said she has done a miraculous job coordinating, communicating, posting on webs for comprehensive plans and zoning regulations, and her dedication to improving the website has made him proud to have her as a coworker.

**Board of County Commissioners Status Report.**

- **Notice of Public Meetings.** The Board's upcoming public meetings will include March 2 and 16, with a work session scheduled for February 17, followed by the dedication of the new Public Health and Human Services building on February 17.
- **Colorado Natural Gas Proposed Rate Hike and Gas Line Concerns.** Senator Tammy Story was contacted by a gas company employee who had serious concerns regarding dangerous situations with natural gas pipelines and rate increases being passed onto customers for expensive repairs. The hearing before the Public Utilities Commission is scheduled for March 8, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend the public hearing.
- **US Forest Service.** Commissioner Hollingsworth heard from residents, that beginning on February 17, the US Forest Service will be taking trees out through a patch cut system to reduce existing fuel loads. There is information on their website for the Manchester and Misery Projects, or residents can contact Katherine Armstrong via email at [Katherine.armstrong@usda.com](mailto:Katherine.armstrong@usda.com) for more information.

**Minutes.** Deputy Clerk Sharon Cate confirmed she has entered the changes suggested by the Board to the February 2, 2021, meeting minutes. Commissioner Hollingworth moved to approve the February 2, 2021 minutes as revised. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Adjourn to Executive Session.** Commissioner Isenhardt moved to adjourn to Executive Session per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f)(I) to discuss personnel matters regarding a specific employee(s), and C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) for a conference with the County Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding personnel. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote 3 to 0.

Signed this 02<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2021.