

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

March 2, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on March 2, 2021, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Linda Isenhart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Chair Isenhart, Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth, Commissioner Web Sill, County Manager Abel Montoya, County Attorney Bradford Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate.

**Public/Press Comment.**

Donna Okray Parman, 529 Highpoint Circle, expressed her appreciation for the reopening of the Community Center and encouraged the opening of the pools soon, to serve seniors. She asked the Board to support Parks and Recreation Director Gabrielle Chisholm in adding the Silver Sneakers program for seniors.

Dick Lewis, 1732 Karlann Drive, expressed his hope that the Board would allow area seniors to use the Community Center free of charge, and to add the Silver Sneakers program.

**COVID-19 Update.**

Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht:

- Gilpin County had two new cases in the past seven days; the positivity rate is 1.3%.
- The County is currently in level blue on the State's COVID-19 Dial 2; Public Health Coordinator Albrecht is working on an application for level green.
- Testing has resumed on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Vaccinations administered: 1,090: 681 first doses and 409 second doses to more than 70% of Gilpin County's age 70+ population
- The link to register for a vaccination is on the Public Health tab of the County's website, or call 303.515.4342.
- Work is progressing to accommodate homebound residents needing a vaccination.

Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington:

- Gilpin County is doing well with a good positivity rate.
- A change has been made in different levels of vaccinations, with 1B3 and 1B4 in process
- Johnson and Johnson has begun shipping vaccinations, which will increase the number of vaccines Gilpin County will receive.
- The Ameristar Casino is working to move the vaccination site to their third floor to accommodate more people through the 15-minute wait period after the injection.
- The COVID-19 call center is staffed by local volunteers, so please be patient through the process.

**Annual Operating Plan for Wildfire Suppression.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington and Tony Simons, Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control, presented the Annual Operating Plan (AOP), the guideline for fighting a fire, should state and federal assistance be needed. The new AOP is now administered in five-year increments with the option for annual review, and the mutual aid period has been extended, which is beneficial to counties and states. Other minor changes were discussed. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve the 2021 AOP for fire suppression. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Treasurer's Monthly Report.** County Treasurer Mary Lorenz reported on operations in that office for the month of January 2021, noting that Parks and Recreation had incurred expenses but has not collected revenue yet. She and Sheriff Armstrong explained that the Public Nuisance account is for the Sheriff to use only for public safety projects or safety equipment, upon approval by a three-person committee.

**Boundary Line Elimination Application—BLE #21-01.** County Planner Tami Archer presented a Boundary Line Elimination application (BLE #21-01) for Rollinsville Mini Storage, combining Lots 073, 072, 071 and 070 on Tollard Road, to create a new 1.24-acre parcel, Lot 70A. She explained that combining the four lots into one would eliminate three development rights in Rollinsville, and that owner Patricia Adler had no plan to develop the resulting parcel. Commissioner Sill moved to approve the application for BLE #21-01 for Rollinsville Mini Storage, creating a new parcel, Lot 70A. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Boundary Line Adjustment Application—BLA #20-03.** County Planner Tami Archer presented a boundary line adjustment application (BLA #20-03) by Carl Schembri for Bonanza Land, lots, block, subdivision, address. She noted:

- The applicant's intent is to reconfigure both parcels to make each more similar in size.
- The western parcel can give improvements to Alps Hill Road.
- Separating the two building envelopes will improve fire mitigation.
- The application meets Gilpin County's zoning regulation requirements.

Lengthy discussion followed, with input and questions from Timberline Fire Protection District Chief Paul Ondr regarding a more long-term solution to the many homes being built on a narrow, non-county owned road.

Commissioner Sill moved to approve BLA #20-03, for Carl Schembri for Bonanza Land, LLC, creating new Parcel A and new Parcel B on Alps Hill Road. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 2 to 1, with Commissioner Hollingsworth voting against citing public safety and egress concerns.

**Rollinsville Shop Space Lease with Timberline Fire Protection District.** For several years, Gilpin County has leased two bays at the County's Rollinsville Public Works shop to Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) at \$200.00 per month to improve service in north county. The County needs that space for its Public Works equipment and has requested that TFPD find a solution to their storage dilemma. TFPD Chief Paul Ondr explained that it is important to keep the large tender engine there for ISO purposes for quick response. He said he had spoken at length with Public Works Deputy Director Dave Rich who also stated that he was now proposing the TFPD lease be only one bay for the next three to five years at no cost. Discussion followed on a liability clause in the Lease Agreement. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve the lease between Gilpin County and the Timberline Fire Protection District, for the west bay of the County's Rollinsville shop, for up to 5 years, at no cost. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. In response to a question from County Manager Montoya, Commissioner Hollingsworth said the lease is for up to five years and will be effective as of January 2021.

**Recess.** The Board of County Commissioners recessed from 10:03 a.m. to 10:06 a.m.

**Community Center Opening Date and Fees Schedule.** Parks and Recreation Director Gabrielle Chisholm gave an update on opening day at the Community Center, saying 68 reservations were made, with the highest being 18 at the end of the evening. All visitors completed the required health screens, a process which was a bit cumbersome, but will be improved with assistance from Public Health Coordinator Albrecht and Emergency Manager Nate Whittington.

Director Chisholm then presented onscreen an updated fee schedule based on discussion at a Board work session. The proposed fee schedule included:

- simplified the pricing for all ages, with a possible discount rate
- adjusted rates to be on lower end compared to other centers in the area
- possibly implementing the Silver Sneakers fitness insurance program for seniors
- possibly scheduling some free days
- definition of a "community group" for rentals
- lower prices at non-peak hours
- Suggestions from residents included raising the senior age from 60 to age 65, and not charge them.

Director Chisholm also noted that the Community Center needs a total building assessment and has considerable maintenance needs such as roofing and floors, and that this was considered in the proposed pricing. Lengthy discussion followed. Commissioner Sill moved to approve the fee proposal with the change to a \$3.00 fee for local drop-in kids, \$3.00 for local seniors or \$25 monthly for each of those categories. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**First Reading of Ordinance #21-01, Amending Ordinance #00-01, Regulating Parking in Gilpin County.** County Attorney Bradford Benning shared onscreen a draft of Ordinance #21-01, and gave a brief summary of some changes to the previous ordinance for parking on County owned roads, Ordinance #00-01. He also listed some changes made in a work session on the proposed new ordinance. County Attorney Benning explained that the County now has parking problems on some roads due to recreation visitors that can impact emergency response.

**Recess.** The Board agreed to recess for a previously scheduled work session with the Clear Creek County Board from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Public Comment on Community Center Fees.** Donna Okray Parman, 529 Highpoint Circle, expressed her views on the approved fee schedule for the Community Center and on staff salaries.

**Ordinance #21-01, Continued.** County Attorney Benning resumed his summary of changes made to the draft of Ordinance #21-01, "Amending Ordinance #00-01, Regulating Parking in Gilpin County." Commissioner Sill moved to continue the first reading of Ordinance #21-01, "Amending Ordinance #00-01, Regulating Parking in Gilpin County" to March 16, 2021. Commissioner Hollingsworth 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:

1. Black Diamond Mine Sale – Commissioner Sill moved to approve the sale of the Black Diamond mining claim via quitclaim deed to the City of Black Hawk for Proximo. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion. Commissioner Sill amended his motion to sell the mining claim to Proximo. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.
2. Mountain Broadband Notice of Claim. Last year a Public Works truck hit a low hanging line, previously damaged by a moving company. The case against the Gilpin County employee was dismissed and has been submitted to County Technical Services, Inc.
3. 26 Hornblend Place. The property owner has until March 10, 2021, to license numerous junk cars, or County Attorney Benning will file a motion with the Court to move the vehicles and for a judgement against him for those costs. The Board agreed these actions were needed.

4. Gilpin County Gaming Impact Assistance Grants Funding Agreements. County Attorney Benning and Staff Accountant Lorna Plamondon presented four Agreements with entities that would receive funding from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to offset impacts from Gaming. The total distribution was \$576,122.00 as follows:
- First Judicial District Attorney's Office — \$204,400.00
  - Gilpin Ambulance Authority — \$95,096.00
  - Eagles' Nest Early Learning Center — \$37,387.00
  - Jefferson Center for Mental Health — \$13,610.00
- The balance goes to the county jail, dispatch and victim services.

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

Slash Site Costs and Feasibility of Potential Early Opening. In response to a request from some residents, the County is considering extending the slash acceptance period in an effort to reduce local fire danger. This would require approving additional employee hours to manage the slash site at considerable cost. County Manager Montoya outlined different cost scenarios and recommended one that would increase the Public Works budget by approximately \$5,000.00. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve increasing the budget for a slash attendant by \$5,000 to \$20,000.00 to allow for an extended season. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Summit Meetings with Jeffrey Wein. The cost for Jeffrey Wein to work with the Board for a half-day summit and the senior leadership team for a full day later this month is \$2,400.00, to be paid from the County Manager's budget. Commissioner Sill moved to approve \$2,400 expenditure for work with Jeffrey Wein. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. The results of these two summits will be presented at a public meeting.

#### **Board of County Commissioners Status Reports.**

Nomination of Commissioner to Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Advisory Committee. After brief discussion of the importance of Gilpin County having a seat on this committee, Commissioner Hollingsworth nominated Commissioner Sill to apply to be on the Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Advisory Committee. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Appointment to Library Board of Trustees. Susan Berumen, President of the Gilpin County Library Board of Trustees, said three applicants for a vacant seat had been interviewed by committee. Their recommendation for that seat was Ruth Arnold, who would bring a great deal of experience to the position. Commissioner Sill moved to appoint Ruth Arnold to the Library Board of Trustees for a term ending in five years. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. The Board of County Commissioners will hold a work session with the Board of Trustees to discuss an intergovernmental agreement on management of the Library.

Notice of Public Meetings. The Board's public meetings in the upcoming two weeks that could be attended by more than one Commissioner and at which public business may be discussed will include: March 16, April 6 and April 20.

#### **Minutes.**

Commissioner Sill moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2021. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2021. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Adjourn to Executive Session.** Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a) to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest; and C.R.S. 24-6-402(e) to instruct negotiators; and C.R.S. 24-6-402(b) to receive legal advice on the above matter. Commissioner Sill 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 2:03 p.m.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.