

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

April 6, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on April 6, 2021, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Linda Isenhart called the meeting to order at 10:00 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.

**Work Session.** The Board held a work session from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to become acquainted with First Judicial District Attorney Alexis King and Assistant District Attorney Amanda Gall. Discussion touched on DA King's plans for Gilpin County, the Porchlight Family Services Center, body cameras on deputies, and other legislation.

**Commissioner Comments.** In response to a question from Commissioner Hollingsworth, Sheriff Armstrong and Timberline Fire Protection District Chief Paul Ondr explained that Gilpin County's Ordinance #11-01, "Establishing the Gilpin County Open Burning Permit System for the Purpose of Safely Disposing of Slash," is only for slash and that all other materials must be taken to the trash transfer station.

**Regular Meeting.** Commissioner Isenhart called the Board's regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Moment of Silence for Mark Matthews.** Commissioner Isenhart called for a moment of silence for former Gilpin County employee Mark Matthews, saying he was well liked and was known for telling jokes. He will be missed.

**Agenda Review.** Commissioner Isenhart added two items to the agenda: review and approval of the Board's meeting minutes for March 16 and 25, 2021, and Sheriff Armstrong's proclamation honoring telecommunications workers.

**Public/Press Comment.** Kris Krejci, 901 Vernon Drive, Central City, thanked the Commissioners for their work, then expressed her views on some aspects of County leadership that she deeply disagreed with.

**April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation.** Human Services Director Laura Solomon proposed the adoption of a proclamation intended to raise awareness and prevent child abuse and neglect. Starting April in 2009, state and county human services departments increased their focus on preventing child abuse and neglect, and on engaging communities. Director Solomon noted food banks help keep families safe by reducing stress. Case Worker Megan Grimes read the proposed proclamation aloud. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to accept the proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse and Prevention Month. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Introduction of New Public Health Director.** Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht introduced Dr. Dawn Comstock, the new Executive Director of Public Health for Jefferson and Gilpin counties, citing her many years of public health of experience. Dr. Comstock spoke at length on COVID-19, new variants of the virus, vaccinations, the importance of accurate and wide-ranging data collection, and the need for community leaders to encourage residents to be vaccinated and continue wearing masks. After discussion, Dr. Comstock said this is national Public Health week and because Public Health Coordinator Albrecht does such a great job, she wanted to thank her publicly.

**COVID-19 Update.**

Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht:

- Gilpin County Epidemiologist Kelly Schossow should be recognized for her help in the effort against COVID and in providing vaccinations.
- Gilpin County is in level green on the State's Dial 3.0. The governor altered the State's mask order, but in Gilpin County we have an order that requires masks indoors.
- The testing site has moved to the Z Casino parking lot, to better serve residents and more casino employees. Clinics are open on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for anyone.
- Vaccinations are administered at the Ameristar Casino on the fifth floor. Shipments of doses are becoming more regular.

Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington:

- We received feedback on how to streamline the vaccination clinics and make them more efficient. Better signage will be in place for tomorrow's clinic.
- The vaccination registration telephone number is 303.515.4342, which is managed by volunteers.
- The Gilpin County Office of Emergency Management has been awarded a Program Community Chipping Grant in the amount of \$9,716.00, the full application amount.

**Sheriff's Office Proclamation for Telecommunications Week.** Sheriff Armstrong read aloud a proclamation in honor of the dispatchers whose diligence and professionalism keep our residents and visitors safe. The Board agreed these workers are extremely important for the safety of our community. Commissioner Hollingsworth

moved to accept proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, April 11 through April 17, 2021. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**FEMA Immunization Funds/Partial Reimbursement of County Funds and FEMA-Funded Temporary Position.**

Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington said that since the COVID-19 pandemic began, he and Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht have tracked all funds going to vaccines and for COVID support. The County had set aside \$150,000.00 for this work, but now Coordinator Albrecht has secured \$125,000.00 in additional funding that can be used only to support the vaccination site and its operation. Because of this, Manager Whittington and Coordinator Albrecht believe that \$75,000.00 can be returned to the County. They will continue to pursue any viable sources of funding for expenses related to the pandemic. He also proposed a temporary position that would support operations and would be fully reimbursed with FEMA funds. After discussion, County Manager Montoya clarified that the Board would like Emergency Manager Whittington to pursue FEMA reimbursement, and that the Board had agreed to the job description as written, including the pay range, and that it would be funded through September 30, 2021, by FEMA.

**Resolution #21-05, Revisions to Community Development Services Fee Schedule.** County Planner Tami Archer presented a revised fee schedule for Development Services reflecting discussion during the March 30 work session. Changes will include:

- Short-Term Rental (STR) permits: \$200.00 annually per calendar year
- Change-in-Use permits: \$25.00 for residential-based businesses, and \$100.00 for commercial businesses
- Contractor Licensing will be Contractor Registration, \$100.00 annually.
- Camping permits and Transfer Development Rights (TDR) will be addressed in the future.

Commissioner Sill moved adopt Resolution #21-05, "Adopting Revisions to a Schedule of Fees for Development Services' Applications, Permits and Services," with the provision that the camping permit fees and the TDR fees will be submitted to the Board in the future for approval. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Continued First Reading of Ordinance #21-01, "Amending Ordinance #00-01, Regulating Parking on Gilpin County Public Rights of Way in the Unincorporated Portions of the County of Gilpin."** County Attorney Benning gave an overview of a proposed ordinance to regulate parking on County-owned public right-of-way, and said the full ordinance would be published in the *Weekly Register-Call* ten days prior to the second reading. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to conclude the first reading of Ordinance #21-01, "Amending Ordinance #00-01, Regulating Parking on Gilpin County Public Rights of Way in the Unincorporated Portions of the County of Gilpin," and to accept it as is. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to publish the ordinance in the *Weekly Register-Call* as required. Commissioner Sill 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:

- FAA Update. He is working on the Board's reply letter, to include reference to the County's historic properties and the need to protect wildlife habitats.
- Lake Gulch Road Update. He is working with the attorneys for Black Hawk and Central City on an intergovernmental agreement regarding maintenance and improvements on a portion of Lake Gulch Road.

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

- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) – Plans for Administration of Funds. This is the most recent federal economic stimulus package; Gilpin County will likely receive \$1.2 million in direct distribution. The dates of the two distributions and guidance on how the funds can be used are not yet clear. The US Treasury should issue more information by May 11, 2021. Hopefully the funds can help the County build back the staffing and infrastructure that is needed.
- Denver Water/Gross Dam Reservoir Proposed Expansion Update. Denver Water will join the Board later today for a second work session to discuss the proposed expansion of Gross Dam Reservoir, particularly the tree removal plan. The Board will submit its official public comment prior to April 14, 2021. The proposed haul routes—SH119 and SH72—for trucks loaded with logs is of major concern to local leaders, residents and business operators.
- Change to Employee Handbook, Sick Leave. People, Culture and Finance Director Lori Schrayner stated that a new state law regarding COVID sick time will change to an accrual rate of one hour per 30 hours worked, up to 48 hours per year, and to allow employees to roll over up to 48 hours of sick time. This law took effect on January 1, 2021. Commissioner Sill moved to approve the required amendment to the Employee Handbook for sick leave for part-time employees. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Commissioner Sill called for an additional change to the Handbook to pay part-time employees for work hours missed due to a snow emergency. Commissioner Isenhardt agreed and the Board directed County Manager Montoya and Director Schrayner to bring this item back to the Board.

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

Notice of Public Meetings. The Board's upcoming public meetings that could be attended by more than one Commissioner and at which public business may be discussed will include: April 20, May 4 and May 18. The onsite visit of the Alps Hill area has been rescheduled to April 23, 10:00a.m.

Ratification of Letter of Support for Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) - County Matching Scholarships Grant. On March 19, Gilpin County sent a letter of support to the Colorado Department of Higher Education for the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative—County Matching Scholarships Grant, a program that is of no cost to Gilpin County, as it is based on number of reduced or free lunches for juniors in high school. A Gilpin County student could receive a COSI scholarship. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to participate in the COSI program that allocates money to a student from Gilpin County through State funds and approve the letter of support. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Renaming Fairgrounds Arena. The Board received a letter from some residents requesting that the Board consider renaming the Fairground Arena as the Allen Arena, in honor of Cody and Shelby Allen, two Central City firefighters and local volunteers. Cody Allen had been a Gilpin County employee a few years ago, and spent many hours maintaining the arena. Commissioner Isenhardt said the Board had received input both in favor of and against this idea, and that any Board would have to be cautious in renaming any County facilities after local residents. Commissioner Hollingsworth said she has supported the idea of renaming the arena. Commissioner Sill shared what his thoughts were upon receiving the request, then how his thinking had changed. He said he believed it would be right to call the arena the Allen Memorial Arena, because of the impact by Cody and Shelby and the Allen family contributions, but also the impact the deaths of these two people had on Gilpin County. After brief discussion, Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to rename the Fairgrounds arena the Allen Memorial Arena in honor of Cody and Shelby Allen and of the Allen family in our community. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Legislative Update. Commissioner Hollingsworth said the Board is following many pieces of State legislation on many topics, some that include funding. They will provide updates as appropriate.

Requested Donation, Antique Benches. Deputy Clerk Sharon Cate informed the Board that the Gilpin County Historical Society has requested that the County donate to them four or five antique benches that have been housed in the Courthouse basement for many years. The benches are broken and in disrepair, but the Society has members that would be willing to make repairs and put the benches to use throughout the community. Commissioner Sill moved to surrender the benches to the Gilpin County Historical Society. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Minutes.** Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for March 16, and March 25, 2021. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Public / Press Comment.** Bill Merline, 86 Spruce Way, expressed his views on the Gross Dam Reservoir Proposed Expansion Project, and the proposed routes to remove trees from the project area. He also spoke about County Attorney Benning's update on the County's lawsuit against the FAA regarding flight paths over Gilpin County, saying the flight paths were being used by other area airports in addition to Denver International Airport. He urged the Board to push for regulations that would protect Gilpin County.

**Adjourn.** There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Signed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.