

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

May 13, 2021

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on May 13, 2021, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Linda Isenhart called the meeting to order at 10:02 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.

**COVID-19 Update.**

Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht:

- Incidence rate is five new cases in the past seven days, two of which reside in one household
- 38.3% of Gilpin County residents are fully vaccinated; 52.6% have received their first dose.
- Cases are generally trending downward in state; in the past week, the group with the highest increase is the 10- to 19-year-olds.

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

**Consideration of Revisions to Gilpin County Public Health Orders #21-02 and #20-05.** Information on the State's most recent COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines was given by Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht and County Attorney Benning. On May 16, 2021, the State will move to a "Clear" designation, which considerably loosens restrictions on businesses, particularly restaurants' mask requirements and capacity limits. During lengthy discussion, the Board received additional input from Emergency Manager Nate Whittington, Human Services Director Laura Solomon and Senior Services Coordinator Mary Ellen Makosky, who all expressed that if restrictions were decreased, it should be done slowly.

County Attorney Benning summarized the discussion the two Public Health Orders (PHO) and clarified the numerous options available to the Board.

PHO #21-02: Commissioner Sill moved to effect County Attorney Benning's list of guidelines for PHO #21-02 as follows:

- Move to level Clear from May 15 to August 15, 2021
- County-provided transportation to medical appointments will be by appointment only and will include the requirement for both the rider and the employee to wear a mask, unless a distance of six feet can be maintained. Also, the transport vehicle must be cleaned and sanitized after each use, until August 15, 2021.

Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

PHO #20-05: Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve revisions to PHO #20-05 as follows:

- From May 15 to August 15, 2021, discontinue health screenings to enter County facilities
- Masks are required inside and outside of County facilities if a distance of six feet cannot be maintained;
- County employees working with the public must wear a mask.
- Appointments for business inside County facilities will be allowed at the directions of each elected official and department director.

Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

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

**Emergency Management Performance Grant—Special Projects, COVID-19 Response.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington informed the Board that the State had made available some special projects grants for COVID-19 response. The grant requires a 50% match, which would be covered by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) budget. He requested approval to apply for a grant in the amount of \$16,348.11, with a match of \$8,174.05, to cover expenses related to moving the Emergency Operations Center to the Justice Center first floor, including the phone system and meeting software. The project would have to be completed by October 1, 2021, by which time he hopes to have been awarded a separate grant the County learned of recently from Congressman Joe Neguse. Sheriff Kevin Armstrong added that when the EOC is moved, a separate permanent space will be set aside for Coroner Zane Laubhan's office within the former Human Services offices.

Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve applying for the emergency management special projects grant for COVID-19 response. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Status of Staff Returning to Gilpin County Offices and Departments.** County Manager Montoya led a discussion of potentially returning staff to working more hours onsite at County offices and departments, decreasing the number of hours worked remotely from home. He said the move needed to be done slowly, creating a hybrid situation beginning June 1 through the summer, then re-evaluating at that time. Because many employees work four days of ten hours, a staggered schedule of working two days in the office and two days from home might be the best way to start.

County Manager Montoya asked the Board if they wanted to return to holding their public meetings in-person at the Courthouse, including the public, but also keeping the Zoom virtual meetings open for increased participation. He has asked Facilities Manager Ryan Keenan to look into adding plexiglass panels between the Board and the public, and between all those seated at the meeting table. The Board agreed that disposable covers for the microphones would be a good option for preventing the potential spread of viruses or germs. Masks would still be required if a distance of six feet cannot be maintained. The Board consensus was for County Manager Montoya to begin bringing more staff back into offices and departments, and to have plexiglass panels and microphone covers in place for the June 1 meeting, and to put the topic of Telecommuting on that day's agenda.

**Public / Press Comment.** Carolyn Collins Petersen, 1429 Wedgewood, asked if the 38.3% of vaccinated Gilpin County residents included those vaccinated elsewhere. Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington said he believed it did, as that information comes through the State's public health system county by county.

**Adjourn.** Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(b) to receive legal advice on specific legal questions. County Attorney Benning said the Executive Session had been noted on the agenda as a placeholder, but that it was not needed. Commissioner Hollingsworth withdrew her motion. There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021.