

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

January 4, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on January 4, 2022, in an online format only; no in-person 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 Attorney Bradford Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate.

**Public/Press Comment.** Jason Gumer, of the Monarch Casino, on behalf of the gaming community in Gilpin County and the Colorado Gaming Association: thanked Commissioner Isenhart for her leadership; we are stronger than before; thanked all of the Commissioners, especially Commissioner Isenhart. Commissioner Isenhart thanked Mr. Gumer for his kind words, saying the Board had a special relationship with the Monarch.

**COVID-19 Update.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington:

- One-week positivity rate is 25.5%
- 47 confirmed and probable cases in the last 7 days
- No known new hospitalizations in the last 7 days
- No known new deaths in the last 7 days
- 68.6% of residents age 5+ have received 1 dose of vaccine
- 62.8% of residents age 5+ are fully immunized
- County employee testing: total tests 727; negative 698; positive 5; inconclusive 3
- Vaccination sites:
  - Library, Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
  - Community Center, Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  - Appointments are required for all clinics. Links to register are on the Public Health website.
- COVID testing—Public:
  - Public Health Building (15193 Highway 119) 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Corona Virus Relief Funds Update.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington stated that all of round one of the Corona Virus Relief Funds (CVRF) administered through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) have been expended for salaries and supplies, and the reserve award for salaries has also been spent. He has applied for reserve round four and approval is pending, with Gilpin County listed as second on the list of eligible applicants. The Office of Emergency Management has been managing approximately \$2 million in funds to mitigate the pandemic's effect.

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

**Discussion of Current COVID-19 Case Numbers—Public Health Order #22-01.** Gilpin County Public Health Director Dr. Dawn Comstock screen shared current information on Gilpin and Jefferson counties, which included some data on Gilpin County's case counts, rate of increase, hospitalizations, etc. After reviewing the information, she recommended a short-term mask order for indoor public spaces in Gilpin County, saying the current Omicron surge would likely peak in the next two to three weeks.

After discussion, Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to implement a countywide public health order, PHO #22-01, in effect from today through February 1, 2022. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 2 to 1, with Commissioner Sill voting against. Commissioner Hollingsworth said this Order would be in addition to existing protocols for Gilpin County employees.

**Board of County Commissioners.** The Commissioners reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

**Annual Emergency Management Performance Grant Application.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington requested the Board's approval to submit the annual application for the Emergency Management Performance Grant-Local Emergency Management Support (EMPG-LEMS), which funds a portion of both his salary and that of the Deputy Emergency Director. The funding has changed due to a new formula variation by FEMA. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve the 2022 EMPG-LEMS application for an anticipated amount of \$49,062.50. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Certification of Ambulance Inspections and License.** Gilpin Ambulance Authority (GAA) Executive Director Brandon Daruna presented the inspection reports on its five ambulances, as provided by Inspector Eric Schmidt. He noted that cardiac monitors will be the next equipment purchase, at \$30,000 to \$40,000.00 each, which have been delayed by the pandemic. Also, GAA received a grant from the State to purchase a new ambulance this year. It was ordered six months ago, and will be received in 12 to 16 months. Older ambulances are traded in or sold off, but not at an amount that helps offset the cost of a new one. Three 24-hour ambulances are on duty at all times, increasing to four or five during high-volume times. Staffing is low, due to the pandemic, but GAA has an agreement with Clear Creek County and others for coverage.

Commissioner Sill moved to approve the certifications of five GAA ambulance inspections and their license for 2022. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Sheriff's Office Monthly Report.** Sheriff Kevin Armstrong reported on numerous operations within the Sheriff's Office during the month of November 2021. He shared onscreen data on various types of crimes, victim services, detention numbers, meals for inmates and Meals on Wheels, and other information. Soon the Colorado State Patrol will provide some data on summons written for speeding on highways 46 and 119. Despite the recent snow, Sheriff Armstrong will continue the current fire ban due to high winds.

**Treasurer's Monthly Report.** County Treasurer Mary Lorenz reported on operations in that office for the month of November 2021, saying she and her staff are very busy with end-of-year and beginning-of-year tasks, such as rolling over the taxes. Also, property tax collections are up, even from 2019. Complete information will be available after the December report has been completed.

**Renewal of Teryx, Inc., IT Consulting Service Agreement.** Tobias Tonelli, President of Teryx, Inc., Gilpin County's computer support provider, presented that company's annual contract and noted two changes: the contract pricing increased to \$6,050 per month, and antivirus software countywide, at \$2.00 per device per month. He said the protection was one of the top four worldwide, providing safety and peace of mind. Teryx, Inc., installed cameras at ballot boxes, and utilized other cameras during elections and ballot processing. Other election security is State managed separately, and Teryx, Inc., assists them if needed. Commissioner Sill moved to approve the Consulting Service Agreement between Gilpin County and Teryx, Inc., for 2022 in the amount of \$72,600.00 to be paid monthly at \$6,050.00, plus \$2.00 per device per month for antivirus software. Commissioner Hollingsworth seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Sheriff's Office Peer Support Grant.** Sheriff Armstrong informed the Board that his staff was in the process of applying for a State-funded Law Enforcement Peer Support grant, but that it required Board approval to be submitted. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve the peer support grant submittal in the amount of \$27,792.00 for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Annual Appointments.** The Board discussed the draft list of annual appointments for 2022. Commissioner Hollingsworth moved to approve the list as discussed. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. The official appointments for 2022 are as follows:

Commissioners to Convey—Linda Isenhart, Web Sill, Sandy Hollingsworth  
Chair, Board of County Commissioners—Sandy Hollingsworth  
Chair Pro-Tem, Board of County Commissioner—Web Sill  
Board of Adjustment— Linda Isenhart, Web Sill, Sandy Hollingsworth  
Local Liquor Licensing Authority— Linda Isenhart, Web Sill, Sandy Hollingsworth  
County Manager (interim)—Bradford Benning  
County Attorney—Bradford Benning  
Administrative Assistant to the Board—Sharon Cate  
Budget Officer—Lorna Plamondon  
Chief Building Official— Tami Archer  
Emergency Manager—Nathan Whittington  
Road Supervisor—Dave Rich  
Depository Banks for Gilpin County—Wells Fargo, ColoTrust, ColoTrust General  
Locations of Public Notice of Public Meetings—Courthouse building front; Gilpin County website  
Staff Authorized to Use Facsimile Signatures—Lorna Plamondon and Sharon Cate  
Newspaper of Record—*The Weekly Register-Call* and *The Mountain-Ear* (final decision to be made on January 18, 2022)

After the Board's lengthy discussion of the Newspaper of Record appointment, they agreed to revisit the topic at a future meeting. Commissioner Hollingsworth noted that some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are still available. Commissioner Hollingsworth assumed the duties of Chair.

**Annual Commissioner Committee and Board Assignments.** Annually, each Commissioner selects several Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI), steering committees to serve on, as well as many other County-related committees and boards. Today the Commissioners reviewed a list of those committees and boards and accepted assignments to each. Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the 2022 list of Commissioner committee and board assignments as discussed. 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 issue:

- Renewal of Revised Law Enforcement Shooting Range Lease. The draft lease was shared onscreen; additional clerical updates will be forthcoming. The lease will renew annually automatically unless either party discontinues it in writing. Commissioner Isenhart moved to approve the lease renewal between Gilpin County and Albert and Mary Jane Frei Irrevocable Trust at \$6,000.00 annually. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**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 January 18, their next regular meeting.

CCI Proxy Designation. Colorado Counties, Inc., (CCI) is a lobbying group for counties in Colorado at the state legislature. After discussion, Commissioner Isenhart moved to appoint County Attorney Benning as the Board's proxy for 2022 CCI Steering Committees. She then retracted motion and moved to appoint Paralegal Sarah Baciak as the proxy for 2022 CCI Steering Committees. Commissioner Sill seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Commissioner Comments. Commissioner Hollingsworth thanked Commissioner Isenhart for starting the meeting, and said she wanted to acknowledge the people displaced in the Marshall fire. Also, since 2002, the US has had a National Mentoring Month for Youth. They try to mentor specifically with schools, teachers, elected officials so youth learn about the bigger community and processes that affect the future.

**Minutes.** Commissioner Sill moved to postpone review of the December 14, 2021, meeting minutes until the next Board meeting. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Public / Press Comment.** Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington said he would like to consolidate and centralize some of the local committees who work on fire mitigation and related topics, to eliminate the chance of competing for funding. Commissioner Hollingsworth agreed and noted that CSU Extension Director Jennifer Cook wants to work on this too, and encouraged sending out invitations to meetings more broadly. In response to a question from Commissioner Isenhart, Manager Whittington said these groups need a forum to allow the public to participate.

**Adjourn to Executive Session.** Commissioner Isenhart moved to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b), to receive legal advice. 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 11:45 a.m.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.