



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners Gilpin County, Colorado, Tuesday, January 28, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at the Gilpin County Courthouse, 203 Eureka, and online via Zoom. In attendance were, Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth - Chair, Commissioner Susan Berumen, Commissioner Jeff Aiken, County Manager Ray Rears, County Attorney Todd Messenger, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Kimberly Kaufman. Due to technical issues for online attendees, Chair Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

Commissioner Berumen noted three changes to the agenda. The first change related to agenda item number 5. The Clear Creek Development Center Resource Presentation was cancelled due to an unanticipated scheduling conflict. Secondly, the Impact Assistance Grant Approval Resolution was added in its place. The third change was the addition of an Executive Session. The changes were approved by all three Commissioners.

County Attorney Messenger enquired if there was a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda; no conflicts were noted.

Public and Press Comment was called:

Mickey Colgin provided an update regarding his household waste water treatment system.

Jenny Welch commented regarding the inspection of Mr. Colgin's waste water treatment system.

Commissioner Aiken moved to approve the Consent Agenda including the submitted Departmental 4th Quarter, 2024 Reports; the Public Trustee Annual Report, The Great Outdoors Colorado Tolland Ranch Letter of Support, the Letter of Support for Lincoln Hills Cares Foundation's Save America's Treasures Grant Application, and Resolution 25-011, Authorizing the Approval to Adopt Revisions to the Employee Handbook. Commissioner Berumen seconded; the Consent Agenda was approved 3 to 0.

Next, the **Proclamation for Black History Month** was read. Commissioner Hollingsworth noted the rich history of Lincoln Hill's contributions to Gilpin County. She also noted the devastating loss of the historic Black community in Altadena, California due to the ongoing fires. She referenced the particular loss of an elder black gentleman's mother and the history behind the ownership of their home when red-lining was prohibiting home ownership for blacks. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt February as Black History month, Commissioner Aiken seconded, the Proclamation was adopted 3 to 0.



Resolution 25-015, Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Impact Assistance Grant Program for Tax Year 2024 was presented by Jamie Boyle, Grant Writer and Manager. Colorado Parks and Wildlife gives counties funds back via the Assessor's Office for state owned public lands that can't be used and developed in ways that can bring revenue into the County. The funds returned are based on acreage calculation and make up for the lack of taxation on the public land. According to Assessor Nelson this year Gilpin County is eligible for \$3,556.03 which would be typically put into our General Fund with no restrictions on how the money is spent. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt Resolution 25-015; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

Gilpin Sheriff's Department 2024 Year-end Report - Kevin Armstrong, Sheriff and Greg Demo, Undersheriff presented the report which detailed the case load and work completed by the different departments including Detentions, Dispatch, Victim Services, Patrol and Administration as well as Emergency Management. The presentation highlights included frequency and type of crimes committed, number of calls for service, court security, evidence handling, booking data and arresting agency, offense relation to gaming, programs offered in detention, and events of note during the year. Extensive discussion followed.

Resolution 25-008, Authorizing Submittal of a Grant Application to the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council (COAC) for the Opioid Response Infrastructure Share Funding, Round 3 - Kevin Armstrong, Sheriff and Greg Demo, Undersheriff, and Jamie Boyle, Grants Manager. The Colorado Opioid Abatement Council has an open infrastructure funding opportunity to provide up to \$500,000 from the summer of 2025 through the summer of 2027. Gilpin is only requesting \$160,000 based on an itemized budget provided by the Sheriff's Department. The monies would be used to expand the telecom activity in various parts of the county through antenna equipment and data subscription. Commissioner Hollingsworth expressed some concerns regarding the suitability of this particular grant for Gilpin's needs versus the Region 10 GROC funding now open to apply for smaller projects. After further discussion, Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the motion passed 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-010, Authorizing the Execution of the Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection with the State of Colorado – Kevin Armstrong, Sheriff and Greg Demo, Undersheriff This agreement with the Department of Fire Protection and Control sets out the partnership, duties, and responsibilities associated with any type of wildland fire or special hazard in the state or in Gilpin County and what Gilpin's responsibilities and duties would be including the transfer of authority as needed. Discussion ensued. The resolution was amended to read "The Board authorizes the execution of the agreement for the cooperative wildfire protection with



the State of Colorado.” Commissioner Aiken moved to adopt the resolution as amended; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-013, Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice for the Local Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement Program (VALE) –

Kristina Mahoney, Victim Services Coordinator, Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff Armstrong and Undersheriff Demo presenting. Gilpin County has been the recipient of the VALE grant for many years. The funds are specifically used for the purpose of supporting and assisting victims and witnesses of crime. Funding comes from offenders who are at time of sentencing ordered to pay into a fund as part of their court ordered fees. There is no match requirement. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution requesting VALE grant funds in the amount of \$42,300.00; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-006, Authorizing the Execution of the 2025 Public Health Medical Officer

Contract – Alisa Witt, Public Health Director presented the resolution. The current medical officer, Dr. Mark Johnson is retiring but has agreed to stay on pending the hiring of a new medical officer. Dr. Jessica Ryder will be starting in the position beginning March 1, 2025. Her extensive emergency medical credentials were noted. Because the contract writing was still in progress, the resolution asked that County Manager Rears be given authority to complete the execution of the contract when finalized. Utilized on an as needed basis only, the cost for her services will be \$200.00 per hour up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year. That amount has already been included in the 2025 Gilpin Public Health Department budget. Commissioner Aiken moved to adopt the resolution as presented; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-007, Cancelling Property Taxes Determined to be Uncollectable – Mary Lorenz, Treasurer presenting. There was only one property of concern this year that was determined to be uncollectable. A tax-exempt entity owns a piece of property that was rented out to Twin Perspectives LLC. who held a possessory interest and thereby owed the taxes. Twin Perspectives went out of business. There was no response to several attempts to contact them. Total uncollectable tax is \$50.00. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution as presented; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

Resolution BLA 24-1, Resolution Approving a Boundary Line Adjustment for 26 Hornblend RD, Black Hawk, CO 80422 (AAN: R005776) and 106 Hornblend RD, Black Hawk CO 80422 –Rachel Vigil, Planner presented the resolution seeking a boundary line adjustment between 26 Horn Blend Road in Sunrise Heights and 106 Horn Blend Road. The application was filed by the property owner last year, so the application is numbered 24-01. The adjustment was requested



as the well is straddling the boundary line between the two properties. There is also a fence built in error on the presumably correct property line. No additional developable lots are being created; no more lots than allowed were being affected, and all property owner's and lien holders have signed off on the boundary line adjustment. New deeds are ready to be signed if the resolution is approved by the Board. Commissioner Aiken moved to approve the boundary line adjustment; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the motion passed 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-012, Amending List of Appointments for the Gateway to the Rockies Opioid Council (GROC) Voting Members

– This resolution sought to amend the List of Official Appointments to appoint the voting members for Gateway to the Rockies Opioid Council. The Director of the Council asked that alternate members be appointed this year as well. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution amending it to add the word “Voting” to the title of the appointment to distinguish the appointment from the non-voting positions; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) requested a commissioner's letter of support for the Mountain Rail Project application seeking a grant to move forward with safety preparations along the rail corridor between Denver and the Yampa Valley / Steamboat. Each county along the rail line was requested to provide a letter supporting the grant to start rock scaling to removes hazardous material along the line. Commissioner Aiken moved to send a letter of support for the Colorado Mountain Rail grant application; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the motion carried 3 to 0.

County Attorney Messenger reported on the contract and other legal items he and his firm had been working on since the last meeting.

County Manager Rears reported on the matters he had been working on highlighting the updated work session schedule and the topics to be considered; the next work session will be February. No plans have been made regarding the Rudolph Ranch Homestead property. A committee will be formed to determine the potential uses for the property. May 20th will be a joint session with the Clear Creek Board of Commissioners. The upcoming Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation meeting to be held at the Teller House was discussed. Invitations for holding a joint meeting with the Councils of Black Hawk and Central City will be extended if common dates can be found. The Housing need Assessment Open House was to be held later that evening.

Public Comment – there was none.



Due to time constraints of two individuals needed for executive session, a motion to recess was made by Commissioner Berumen to recess into Executive Session pursuant to CRS §24-6 - 402(4)(a) to discuss the acquisition of land and CRS§ 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding the requirements of CRS §24-6-401, and also CRS §24-6-402(4)(e)(I) for negotiation and instructing negotiators with regard to the retention of a lobbying firm to represent Gilpin's interests in the Colorado General Assembly. Aiken seconded the motion to recess; the motion was approved 3 to 0.

Recess for Executive Session was taken at 11: 29 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:22 p.m. Commissioner Hollingsworth noted the time and named the participants in the Executive Session including the three Commissioners, Manager Rears, Attorney Messenger, and as to the matter pertaining to CRS §24-6-402 (4)(e) only, Heather Resko and Tanya Kelly-Bowry participated. Any improper action during the executive session should be stated into the record. None was noted.

Commissioner Berumen made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Aiken seconded; the motion passed 3 to 0.

Commissioner Berumen moved to delegate the authority to County Manager Rears to negotiate a contract with lobbyist group *The Policy Matters*, not to exceed \$35,000.00. Commissioner Aiken seconded; the motion passed 3 to 0.

Commissioner Berumen then moved to delegate the authority to County Manager Rears to purchase an acre (of land) at the appraised value of \$68,400 or not to exceed that value. Commissioner Aiken seconded; the motion carried 3 to 0.

Returning to the agenda, the Commissioners had a discussion of Colorado legislative proposals in consideration of taking a BoCC position. The following items were discussed:

- SB25-001. Colorado Voting Rights enshrining the Federal Voting Right Act -Support.
- HB25-1053. Landowner immunity for granted emergency access to property - support;
- HB25-1088. Cost for Ground Ambulance Services - monitor
- SB25- 012. Financial Assistance for County Jails – Support
- SB25-065. Indemnification of Peace Officer's Criminal Conduct -discussed
- HB25-1008. Complementary Behavioral Health Services in Jails- Oppose
- HB25-1089. County Mail Ballot Signature Verification Requirements– support



- SB25-002. Regional Building Codes for Factory-built Structures – monitor for amendments
- SB25-060. Repeated Phone Calls Obstruction of Government Operations -discussed
- HB1029. Granting Municipalities Police Power on Certain Land - oppose

Board of County Commissioners Report and Notice of Public Meetings

The Commissioners each reported on their various meetings and activities during the previous two weeks.

Upcoming meetings: later in the evening the Open House for the Housing Needs Assessment

Next regular meeting February 11, 2025

All of the Commissioners will be attending the CCAT and CCI legislative discussions Wednesday through Friday this week

The Strategic Summit for Gilpin County staff,

and one or more Commissioners may be at the Timberline movie presentation related to Fire on February 8, 2025 at the Observatory.

All business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Approved this 13th day of May, 2025.

A signed and recorded version of these minutes is available via the Clerk & Recorder's Office.