



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners
Gilpin County, Colorado
December 15, 2025**

A Special Meeting was held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the Gilpin County Courthouse, 203 Eureka, Central City, Colorado. In attendance were Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth - Chair, Commissioner Susan Berumen, Commissioner Jeff Aiken, County Manager Ray Rears, Alternate County Attorney Jack Reutzel appearing via Zoom, and Deputy Clerk to the Board, Kimberly Kaufman. Chair Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Chair Hollingsworth mentioned the tragedies that occurred over the weekend in a time of the year that is supposed to be a time of family, faith, appreciation, acceptance, and joy. She expressed her good wishes to all and their families over the holidays.

She then enquired if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

County Attorney Reutzel asked the Commissioners if they had any conflicts of interest with any matter on the adopted agenda. None were noted.

Resolution 25-150, Selecting Jefferson County Public Health to Serve as the Region's Early Childhood Council, Encouraging Clear Creek and Jefferson Counties to Make the Same Selection, and Authorizing the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners to Sign a Joint Letter to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood Stating that Selection was called. Jeri Brewer, Strategic Projects Manager, and Mary O'Neil, Director of Grant and Procurement Finance for Jefferson County, presented the background and role of the Early Childhood Council. A formal selection process included scoring by representatives of Clear Creek, Jefferson, and Gilpin Counties of several providers seeking recommendation to be the regional provider to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC). All three counties unanimously recommended Jefferson County Public Health as the Early Childhood Council Provider. Commissioner Aiken moved to approve the recommendation; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the recommendation was approved 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-149, A Resolution Establishing a "Minimum Operational Expense Assigned Reserve" (MOEAR) Equal to Three Months of Annual Operating Expenses (Including the TABOR Reserve), Based on Prior -Year Actuals Excluding Capital and One-Time Expenditures was called next. Ray Rears, County Manager, presented the resolution formalizing the Gilpin County's practice of setting aside a minimum of three months reserve monies for operating expenses to address any temporary revenue shortfalls, economic downturns, or national, state,



or local emergencies. Currently, the County has five months of operational funding in reserve. A replenishment plan in case of depletion of those reserve funds was briefly addressed. Detailed financial figures were set out in resolution Exhibit A. Operating expense per month to serve at a minimal level is \$2,464,833. Discussion followed. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution was adopted on a vote of 3 to 0.

Chair Hollingsworth then called **Resolution 25-147, A Resolution Establishing a Dedicated “Strategic Water Rights Acquisition and Development Assigned Reserve” (SWRADAR) in the Amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) to Strengthen Gilpin County’s Long-Term Water Position and to Protect Its Water Dependent Interests.** Manager Rears presented the resolution setting out the need to provide for the County’s long-term sustainability and growth by securing reliable water resources. Water availability supports environmental protection, economic development, public safety including wildfire response and future land use planning. An assigned reserve set aside for strategic water rights acquisition has been the practice of the County for years; this resolution formalizes the \$2,000,000 reserve fund providing the option of seizing opportunities as they arise to acquire water interests. The purchase of a section of the Rudolph Ranch was noted as an example of a water rights and storage purchase. Brief discussion followed. Commissioner Aiken moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the resolution passed 3 to 0.

Having not yet reached the time noticed for the Public Hearing, Manager Rears noted the County Slash Yard was re-opened to allow free drop off for county residents of slash debris created as a result of the recent high wind events. Non-county residents could utilize the yard for a fee. The yard would close again on December 21st.

At 9:30 a.m., Chair Hollingsworth opened the Public Hearing for **Resolution 25-148, Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues for Each Fund, and Adopting a Budget for Gilpin County, Colorado, for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January, 2026, and Ending on the Last day of December 2026.** Manager Rears, with Lorna Plamondon, Interim Finance Director, began the proposed 2026 Budget presentation with details on overall expenditures, income sources, and individual departmental particulars. Fund balances were highlighted. At 9:41 a.m. Chair Hollingsworth opened the hearing to public comment. There was none. Public comment was closed at 9:42 a.m. Commissioner discussion followed including a note that some employee staffing had been reduced. Staff was thanked for their efforts in preparing the budget and the hard decisions that were made to keep expenditures reduced in times of higher costs. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner



Aiken seconded, the budget was formally adopted on a vote of 3 to 0. The Public Hearing was closed at 9:45 a.m. by Commissioner Hollingsworth.

The last action item on the agenda was called by Chair Hollingsworth. **Resolution 25-146, A Resolution Levying General Property Taxes for the Year 2025, to Help Defray the Costs of Government for Gilpin County, Colorado for the 2026 Budget Year.** Lorna Plamondon, Interim Finance Director presented details of the resolution. It was noted the budget and the resolutions, including this one, are available on the County website for the public's consideration. Commissioner Aiken moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the resolution passed 3 to 0.

Chair Hollingsworth opened the opportunity for public and or press comment. There was none. Chair Hollingsworth closed comment at 9:48 a.m.

Chair Hollingsworth wished everyone happy holidays and expressed her appreciation for the hard work of staff throughout the year.

Commissioner Aiken thanked staff for making his transition into his commissioner position easier.

Commissioner Berumen thanked everyone as well and was looking forward to another productive year in 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Approved this 13th day of January, 2026.

Signed:

Sandy Hollingsworth, Commissioner

Susan Berumen, Commissioner

Jeff Aiken, Commissioner

Kimberly Kaufman, Deputy Clerk to the Board

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