



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners Gilpin County, Colorado, Tuesday, February 11, 2025

A regular meeting was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at the Gilpin County Courthouse, 203 Eureka, and online via Zoom. In attendance were, Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth - Chair, Commissioner Susan Berumen, and Commissioner Jeff Aiken, County Manager Ray Rears, County Attorney Todd Messenger, and Deputy Clerk to the Board, Kimberly Kaufman. Chair Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

There were no changes to the agenda. County Attorney Todd Messenger asked the Commissioners if they had any conflicts of interest. None were noted.

Public and Press Comments were called. There were no comments.

Commissioner Berumen moved to accept the Consent Agenda which included the Clerk and Recorder Clerk and Recorder December, 2024, and January, 2025, End of Month Report; the Finance Department Quarter 4, 2024, Report, and approval of the November 12, 2024, and December 10, 2024, Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Aiken seconded; the motion was approved 3 to 0.

Chanda Johnson, Human Resources Director, presented the team for new hire introductions. She passed the presentation to Deputy Chief Adami to do introductions for the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Schneider, Deputy Roberts, Deputy Patrick, and Deputy Kim were introduced to the Commissioners and staff.

Resolution 25- 024, Resolution Adopting the 2024 Gilpin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan –Jennifer Cook, CSU Extension Director presented on behalf of the Sheriff's Office and the Office of Emergency Management. She referred the Commissioners to the story map to get a good overall summary of the contents of the document. A grant paid for a significant portion of the expense of creating the document including \$100,000 from the U.S. Forest Service. This document will serve as the foundation for additional grants and programming going forward. Commissioner Aiken moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Berumen seconded; it was adopted 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-023, Approving Law Enforcement Recruit Training Agreement – Sean Wheeler, Division Chief for Patrol, and Zak Adami, Division Chief for Detentions. Detentions Chief Adami presented the resolution and the highlights of the program including the promotion to Sergeant of one of the recruits who initially went through the program. Only two recruits have resigned within the two-year period of commitment to the Department, so the program has been



successful in hiring and retention of deputies. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-022, Approving the Law Enforcement Academy Repayment Agreements – Sean Wheeler – Division Chief for Patrol, and Zak Adami, Detentions Chief, presented the repayment agreement that was rewritten to allow the county to better recoup the law enforcement academy training expense for those who did not complete the two-year commitment to Gilpin County. The repayment amount owed would be at a pro-rated basis and meet the legal and financial requirements under current law. Commissioner Aiken moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-014, Authorizing the Execution of the Agreement for Professional Consulting Services with JR Engineering, LLC– John Combs, Public Works Director, and Andrew Decker, Right of Way Specialist (ROW) Specialist presented the resolution. Because of the restriction on federal monies recently, the receipt of previously anticipated federal grant monies is unlikely. This resolution proposed that the larger engineering contract of \$550,348 originally approved be reduced to \$298,800 with an optional amount of \$33,790 for a total of \$332,590. The original larger engineering study would be foregone in lieu of a more minimal engineering study. A representative from JR Engineering, Eric Lee, appeared online and offered additional information. After discussing various options, a full engineering study is clearly needed to determine the full condition of the road. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the execution of the agreement with JR Engineering LLC with the contract amount not to exceed \$332,590. Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

Update Regarding the Gilpin Kids Request to Award Funds for Child Care to Gilpin Mountain Kids Early Learning Center Board – Janey Barker, Human Services Director and appointee to the Learning Center Board of Directors, and Lyndsey Denton, President of the Board, presented the update on their recent accomplishments. They acquired non-profit status through the State of Colorado quickly, and they had been informed the week before this meeting they now have their non-profit status through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). They have opened a bank account, paid the liability insurance using the county provided funding, and they are working on obtaining the other necessary insurances. They are doing building walk-throughs with professional services to look at the solar and building systems to determine what repairs are needed. They created a website that has accrued a wait list of approximately 30 children wanting to join the Center, and they have written the job description for the executive director position. They hope to have the position filled within the next month. They have sought State licensing which typically takes 60 to 90 days since they are starting over as a new center. Board members will have training to better their understanding of running non-profits. Reduced rates



for county and or learning center employees was tabled until profitability could be determined for their first few months. Commissioner Berumen mentioned Triad Bright Futures has resources available to help with training.

Resolution 25-019, Approving the Annual List of Take-Home Vehicles for On-Call Employees and Positions— Joe Allaire, Finance Director, presented the updated annual list. Mileage is based on a four-day work week and addresses listed in the Human Resources system. He mentioned two items of note for this year. There is a pool car assigned to Victim Services that is now on the list, and mileage for the Sheriff's Office vehicles is averaged to simplify the calculations. Mileage from last year is down approximately 11,565 miles. The list notes there is one person in the Coroners' Office, two in Public Works, and 20 in the Sheriff's Office with take home vehicles when they are on call for a total of 23 current vehicles. Additional vehicles will be added when outfitted to meet job requirements. "On call" by definition requires the employee be able to respond to Gilpin County within 60 minutes. Commissioner Aiken moved to approve the resolution; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-017, Resolution to Authorize Applications for Xcel Energy's EVSE/EVSI Rebate Program and the Colorado Energy Office's Charge Ahead Colorado Grant Program -- Rob Gutierrez, Community Development Director, presented the resolution. Xcel Energy offers generous rebate incentives for EV Charger installs while United Power does not really offer any. Gilpin did not win approval on our original application to Xcel for install of the EV charger at the library, so we have been working through the Charge Ahead grant from the state which makes it a bit more costly. Since Gilpin County was an original applicant, when Xcel recently opened up the program again, they enquired as to Gilpin's interest in an installation of a Level Three fast charger. The best location for a fast charger would be the Teller parking lot across from the Old Courthouse. The County does not own that property, but we have a use sharing agreement with the owner, Central City Opera. The Commissioners were asked if they were supportive of submitting an application to the program to determine our potential costs if approved. Per policy, to apply for a grant, the Board must give consent to apply. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution passed 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-018, A Resolution Seeking an Easement Agreement Between Gilpin County and Burney Investment Group LLC and Burney Realty Company LLC (Red Tail Cabins) -- Rob Gutierrez, Community Development Director and Sarah Baciak, Paralegal presented the resolution. It requested approval of an update to an existing easement agreement in the area surrounding the Red Tail Cabins. The county acquired the property in 2018. County Manager Rears noted that current County Attorney firm, Fairfield and Wood, was involved as the Berney counsel prior to becoming the County Attorney, so they have had no involvement in the current



matter since to avoid the appearance of a conflict with Gilpin's interests. Commissioner Aiken moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the resolution passed 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-020, Resolution Appointing Members to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)—Rachel Vigil, Planner, presented. There are five (5) spots for full time HPC members and one spot for an alternate member. Two positions were up for reappointment or expiring. The fifth full-time position was vacant. Two existing members, Jeremy Kaiser and Susan Meade, reapplied, and new applicant, Steve Slawson, sought to fill the vacant position. There were no additional applicants for the positions. Each applicant was interviewed by the Commission, and all three were unanimously approved. Commissioner Berumen moved to approve the resolution re-appointing Susan Meade and Jeremy Kaiser, and appointing Steve Slawson to fill the vacant position. Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution passed 3 to 0.

Resolution 25-021, Authorizing the Execution of the Legislative Services Contract with The Policy Matters, LLC and Authorizing Additional Expenditures – Ray Rears, County Manager, presented the item to the Board. Potential legislative changes that could significantly impact the Gilpin County budget were being proposed at the state level, so the resolution sought to find lobbyists that could represent the County interests specifically as it related to gaming matters. Adverse legislation could cost the county millions of dollars. Two proposals were received from lobbying firms with the recommendation to contract with The Policy Matters, LLC. The proposed contract would have a not to exceed amount of \$35,000. Commissioner Aiken moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the resolution passed 3 to 0.

County Attorney Messenger presented his report highlighting the contracts reviewed and other matters handled by his office including an ongoing code enforcement matter, research on civil process fees, and some confidential litigation matters.

County Manager Rears presented his written report highlighting some areas. He mentioned the upcoming meeting dates of February 18th, March 4th, and June 3rd with the topics to be discussed on each date. May 20th will be a joint work session with the Clear Creek County Board of Commissioners. The South Beaver Creek Road project is finally moving forward. The Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) is hosting their annual meeting at the Teller House later in the week. The Strategic Summit from the previous week had robust discussion with resulting revisions for our Mission, Vision, and Goals. The Community Engagement Report and the Grant Management Report were briefly discussed as well.

Public and Press Comment was called. No one wished to speak.



Upcoming Public Meetings were announced by Chair Hollingsworth: an education session on water wells and septic systems was being held at the library that evening, the CCEDC previously mentioned will be attended by the Commissioners on Thursday; Charles “Chip” Smith, described as “a driving force in the community” will have a memorial service on Sunday; February 17th County offices are closed for the holiday, and on February 18th BoCC will have their next work session.

Commissioner Aiken, Berumen, and Hollingsworth individually discussed the meetings they had attended virtually and in person.

Next, the Commissioners discussed their positions on pending legislation:

- SB25-119, Early Childhood Education - Oppose
- HB25-1147, Fairness and Transparency in Municipal Court - Support
- HB25-1208, Local Governments Tip Offsets for Tipped Employees - Monitor
- SB25-002, Regional Building Codes for Factory-Built Structures - Support
- SB25-142, Changes to Wildfire Resiliency Code Board - Oppose
- SB25-149, Equestrian Protection - Monitor
- SB25-045, Health-Care Payment System Analysis - Support
- SB25-0245, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems -Monitor

Additional anticipated bills were briefly discussed.

Having no other business, Commissioner Hollingsworth adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Approved this 27th day of May, 2025.

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