



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners Gilpin County, Colorado, Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

A regular meeting was held on Tuesday, March 11, 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. 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 approve the **Consent Agenda** which included **Clerk and Recorder February 2025 End of Month** Report. Commissioner Aiken seconded, the consent agenda passed 3 to 0.

Chanda Johnson asked Undersheriff Demo to introduce his new team members, Lisa Manifold and Tatum Lepro, who are both assigned to the Communications Center of the Sheriff's Office.

The **United Power Mitigation Update** was then presented by Travis Rodlin, Mountain Area Manager for United Power. He discussed the wildfire mitigation plan and vegetation management objectives which include protection of United Power's infrastructure and system hardening and improvements in fire prone areas. AIDash, a risk modeling software utilizing satellite imagery, is used to determine the highest risk areas once a year when foliage is at its peak. Lidar and drone imagery are used for more granular data collection. Discussion followed regarding current mitigation work areas and resources. The Board thanked him for his update as they had requested one for public awareness.

**Resolution 25-028, Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of Abandoned Personal Property** – Susie Allen, Property and Evidence Manager, Gilpin County Sheriff's Office presented. She submitted a list of firearms that are considered to be found or abandoned through various means. Certified letters were sent to registered owners of the firearms in cases from 2020 through 2024. Upon Commissioner approval for disposition, they will be traded to a firearms dealer in return for funds to be used for other equipment, or destroyed. Discussion was had regarding whether the proceeds of the sale were to go into the general fund or put on a separate revenue line for use specifically by the Sheriff. The last few years they received a trade credit, not an actual check. All Commissioners agreed that the proceeds be used as a trade credit for 2025 and the resolution would be amended accordingly. Commissioner Aiken moved



to adopt the resolution as amended; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

**Resolution 25-033, Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Funds** – Kristina Mahoney, Victim Services Coordinator presented. This is normally a two-year grant, but due to Federal budget cuts, this application is done on a one-year grant cycle for 2026. The request is for funds not to exceed \$115,000. This year, the application includes an IND, an Indirect budget request, of 15% of the grant request for additional funding to cover costs. The \$115,000 request is inclusive of that additional funding. The money is used for staffing, training and travel expense, and some business supplies. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution authorizing submission of a grant application for VOCA Grant funds not to exceed \$115,000.; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution passed 3 to 0.

**Resolution 25-031, Adopting the 2025 Mission, Values, and Strategic Priorities**– Ray Rears, County Manager presented. The proposed mission statement has been shortened to “We provide responsive services to protect, maintain, and enhance our unique community historic and cultural heritage and our mountain environment.” Values listed included Equity, Innovative, Respectful, Responsive, Sustainable, and Trustworthy. Strategic priorities or goals were set in sections for “up to 18 months”, “up to 36 months” for long term goals, and “perpetual goals” to be maintained. After discussion, Commissioner Aiken moved to adopt the resolution with the word change from “equity” to “equitable”; Commissioner Berumen seconded; the motion carried 3 to 0.

**Resolution 25-032, A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County, Colorado, Adopting Revisions to the Employee Handbook** – Ray Rears, County Manager, presented the handbook changes which increased the paid holiday hours from 8 to 10 across the board irrespective of the employee’s typical work day of 8 or 10 hours; and further, employees would, from their first day of employment, receive 40 hours of vacation prorated based on the pay periods. Years of service would change to months of service. The longer the term of service, the greater the amount of vacation hours earned per pay period. Personal leave would be eliminated starting January 1, 2026, but would be offset by the increase in the number of vacation hours earned per pay period. Discussion followed regarding different areas of the employee handbook. Commissioner Berumen moved to adopt the resolution with some minor wording changes suggested by Attorney Messenger; Commissioner Aiken seconded; the resolution was adopted 3 to 0.

**County Attorney’s Report** – Todd Messenger presented his updates, which included review of six different contracts, the provision of legal advice and research relative to land use matters, work on litigation and coordination with other firms on legal matters.

**County Manager’s Report** – Ray Rears noted the next work session would be April 1<sup>st</sup> with Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funding and onsite waste water treatment



systems with Public Health as the topics. May 20<sup>th</sup>, the joint work session with Clear Creek Board of County Commissioners will include the regional shooting range, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization expansion discussion. A special work session is requested for next week to discuss the Community Annex and value engineering cost reductions to meet budget concerns. It will be noticed for 8:00 a.m. South Beaver Creek Road engineering meetings are ongoing with staff and outreach to the public will be scheduled soon. The joint meeting with Central City is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in their City Hall. Lastly, the Gilpin School sanitation construction project will resume on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Public or Press Comment** was called. There was no comment.

### **Board of County Commissioner Reports and Notice of Public Meetings**

Commissioners Aiken, Berumen, and Hollingsworth reported on their meeting, committee, and seminar attendance.

**Upcoming meetings:** Two or more Commissioners may be at the Timberline Fire Awareness meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.

March 18<sup>th</sup>, Special Work Session; 8:00 a.m.

March 20<sup>th</sup>, Gateway to the Rockies Opioid funding Listening Session; 2:00 p.m. Gilpin Library

March 25<sup>th</sup>, Regular BoCC Meeting; 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Aiken moved to recess to Executive Session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e)(I); **and further,**

Recess to Executive Session for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f)(I). Personnel matters except if the employee who is the subject of the session has requested an open meeting, or if the personnel matter involves more than one employee, all of the employees have requested an open meeting. The Board will reconvene at 1:00 p.m. to meet with Policy Matters, LLC. (Lobbyists for Gilpin County) via Zoom. Commissioner Berumen seconded; the motion passed 3 to 0. The Board recessed at 10:26 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

County Attorney Messenger stated into the record that the Executive Session has been suspended during the course of this agenda item which had been set for 1:00 p.m.; it will be reconvened following this, and the record reflects why that executive session was called, so it has not been adjourned at this point.



The meeting with Heather Resko and Katie Hancock, lobbyists with Policy Matters, LLC ensued. A list of positions taken on legislation discussed is as follows:

#### House Bills

- HB25-1008. Complementary Behavioral Health Services in Jails. **Oppose**
- HB25-1029. Municipal Authority over Certain land. **Oppose**
- HB25-1031. Law Enforcement Whistleblower Protection. Checking on CCI's amendments. **Monitor**
- HB25-1050. Regional County Jail Approach. **Support**
- HB25-1053. Landowner Immunity for Emergency Access to Property. **Support**
- HB25-1088. Costs for Ground Ambulance Services. **Monitor**
- HB25-1108. Prohibitions in Rental Agreements Due to Death. Passed House, waiting for committee hearing in Senate. **Support**
- HB25-1120. Septic-System Replacement Enterprise. **Amend**
- HB25-1147. Fairness & Transparency in Municipal Court. **Monitor**
- HB25-1169. Housing Developments on Faith and Educational Land. **Amend**
- HB25-1182. Risk Model Use in Property Insurance Policies. **Support**
- HB25-1208. Local Governments Tip Offsets for Tipped Employees. Passed out of committee, waiting for hearing date in Finance. **Monitor**
- HB25-1237. Soft Closing of Alcoholic Beverage Establishments. **Oppose**
- HB25-1247. County Lodging Tax Expansion. **Support**

#### Senate Bills

- SB25-001. Colorado Voting Rights. **Support**
- SB25-002. Regional Building Codes for Factory-Built Structures. **Support**
- SB25-003. Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices. Sheriff opposes. **Monitor**
- SB25-012. Financial Assistance for County Jails. **Support**
- SB25-033. Prohibit New Liquor-Licensed Drug Stores. **Monitor**
- SB25-040. Future of Severance Taxes & Water Funding Task Force. **Monitor**
- SB25-045. Health-Care Payment System Analysis. **Support**
- SB25-060. Repeated Phone Calls Obstruction of Government Operations. Passed House, assigned to Judiciary. **Support**
- SB25-077. Modifications to Colorado Open Records Act. **Monitor**
- SB25-142. Changes to Wildfire Resiliency Code Board. **Oppose**
- SB25-149. Local Government Duties Equestrian Protections. **Monitor**



### Others - Watch

- HB25-1261. Consumers Construction Defect Action. Doesn't look like it will go anywhere. Will update our tracker.
- HB25-1272. Construction Defects & Middle Market Housing. New draft of bill – will send to Commissioners.
- No gaming bills as of yet.

### Postponed Indefinitely

- HB25-1199. Property Tax Payment Schedule. **Postponed indefinitely.**
- SB25-065. Indemnification of Peace Officers' Criminal Conduct. **Postponed indefinitely.**
- SB25-119. Measures to Modify the Department of Early Childhood. **Oppose – postponed indefinitely.**
- HB25-1089. County Mail Ballot Signature Verification Requirements. **Support – Postponed Indefinitely**
- HB25-1099. Water Quality Data Standards. **Support – Postponed indefinitely**

Having completed the discussion regarding the pending legislation, the Board resumed back into executive session at 2:11. p.m.

At 4:49 the Board reconvened.

Commissioner Hollingsworth read the following into the record: "The time is now 4:49 and the Executive Session has been concluded. The participants in the Executive Session were Commissioner Hollingsworth, Commissioner Berumen, Commissioner Aiken, County Attorney Messenger, Human Resources Director Johnson, and County Manager Rears. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into Executive Session occurred during the Executive Session or that any improper action occurred during the Executive Session in violation of the open meetings law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record." Commissioner Berumen stated she had no concerns. Chair Hollingsworth, seeing or hearing none, adjourned the regular meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Approved this 24th day of June, 2025.

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