

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

December 6, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on December 6, 2016, at the Gilpin County Old Courthouse. Chair Isenhart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Chair Linda Isenhart; Commissioner Buddy Schmalz; Commissioner Gail Watson; County Manager Roger Baker; County Attorney Bradford Benning; and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate.

Agenda Review. Commissioner Watson moved to conduct a discussion of the 2017 County Manager Contract in Executive Session. Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Public Hearing—Supplemental Budget Appropriations—Resolution #16-12. Chair Isenhart opened a public hearing for Resolution #16-12, “Approving Supplemental Appropriations to the 2016 Budget.” Finance Officer Clorinda Smith referred to a list of specific expenditure and revenue additions and other changes that were necessary in order to balance individual funds for 2016.

Chair Isenhart opened the hearing to public comment. There being none, Chair Isenhart closed the hearing to public comment. Commissioner Schmalz moved to adopt Resolution #16-12, “Approving Supplemental Appropriations to the 2016 Budget,” as presented. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Chair Isenhart closed the public hearing. (The legal recording of the public hearing, including any public comment, is an audio file available through the Clerk and Recorder’s Office.)

Take-Home County Vehicle Approval for 2017. Finance Officer Clorinda Smith presented the annual list of on-call employees/positions that have use of a county-owned vehicle 24/7, including commuting to and from home; she emphasized that personal use of the vehicles is prohibited. Take home vehicles may be considered a taxable fringe benefit, depending on the suitability of the vehicle for other purposes. The 2017 list included: the Sheriff, Undersheriff, two captains, sergeants and patrol deputies (who reside in Gilpin County); the Public Works director and road supervisor; and the Coroner. After a brief review, Commissioner Watson moved to approve the 2017 Take-home County Vehicle List. Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Resolution #16-16—Supporting School Yard Grant Application. Gilpin County School Superintendent Dr. David MacKenzie, and Secondary Instructional Coach/Gifted Education Coordinator/ Information Literacy Center Coordinator Sunny Vincent, requested the Board of County Commissioners support of the School’s application for a school yard grant from the Great Outdoor Colorado Trust Fund to pay for some playground equipment and to develop the outdoor education area.

Coordinator Vincent described the project as more of an educational playground, which will replace older equipment, trying to incorporate gardening and a greenhouse structure for the school and the community, and presented conceptual designs of greenhouse, all to located at the current playground location. Students have assisted in the project, as have parents and teachers, and the innovative underground greenhouse is a 4th grade student’s idea. The project will also hopefully provide composting service for cafeteria food refuse, if the problem of where to take the compost can be solved; Commissioner Watson suggested talking to CSU Extension Agent Irene Shonle for assistance on this part of the project.

Commissioner Watson moved to adopt Resolution #16-16, “Supporting the Application for a School Yard Grant from the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and the Completion of Gilpin County School Playground and Outdoor Educational Area.” Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Resolution #16-18—Rescinding Temporary Fire Restrictions. County Manager Baker explained that temporary fire restrictions, as imposed by Resolution #16-14 on October 18, 2016, were no longer necessary and that other counties contiguous to Gilpin County had also rescinded theirs. Commissioner Watson moved to approve Resolution #16-18, “Rescinding Temporary Fire Restrictions.” Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Clerk and Recorder’s Monthly Reports. Chief Deputy Gail Maxwell reported on operations in the Clerk and Recorder’s Office for the months of September and October 2016, saying that residents were buying more new vehicles, but also keeping their older vehicles too, resulting in increased revenues. Commissioner Isenhart asked about late fees, and whether residents still receive reminder cards for registration renewal. Chief Deputy Maxwell explained that the state sends the cards as a courtesy, but it is the owners’ responsibility to pay the registration fee before the expiration date, even if they did not receive a reminder.

The discussion turned to the November election, which Chief Deputy Maxwell said went well; 5096 ballots were mailed within this county, of which only 195 were returned. Despite the ease of returning ballots by mail or through the three collection boxes located within the County, around 1200 people chose not to vote this year. On Election Day, the judges handled 979 ballots: 241 came in to the Old Courthouse, and judges took in 738 ballots from collection boxes. In total, 1096 ballots were dropped off in the Old Courthouse box, 356 in Rollinsville, and

1009 at the Community Center. Actual mailed ballots continued to decline, at 798; 35 were received too late to be counted, down from the previous year. Overall, 73% of Gilpin County voters participated, an outstanding number compared to the state turnout rate. Discussion followed on the limitations of mail as a method for returning ballots, and options that may be explored for future elections.

Dr. Irene Shonle—Alton Scofield Award. The Board of County Commissioners recognized Gilpin County's CSU Extension Agent Dr. Irene Shonle, recent winner of the Alton Scofield Distinguished Service Award. This is Colorado State University Extension's highest award, given in recognition of sustained superior service and outstanding performance by an Extension professional through their Extension career. Commissioner Watson, who submitted the nomination, said she believed Irene fits that description well. Commissioner Watson had originally met Dr. Shonle in Extension classes 15 year ago, and has since learned how valuable she is to the community in many ways. Dr. Shonle is also the recent winner of the Epsilon Sigma Phi and team awards.

Various citizens and staff spoke regarding Dr. Shonle's contributions, including her support staff (and Fair Coordinator) Heather Pearce; past Extension Advisory Board member Julie Shaw; and spouse Tom Lambrecht. Commissioner Isenhardt presented her with a rosemary tree, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, and thanked her for her numerous contributions to Gilpin County.

Recess. The Board recessed at 9:37 a.m. for a reception to honor Dr. Shonle, then reconvened at 9:52 a.m.

Modification of Conservation Easement—Boulder River Ranch. Cody DeGuelle, the Director of Lincoln Hills Fly Fishing Club, was present to request a modification of the conservation easement previously granted over the Boulder River Ranch land, which is operated by the club for the benefit of their members, as well as being utilized in the charitable and community outreach efforts of Lincoln Hills Cares, the organization's non-profit arm. Recognizing that many in Gilpin County are not familiar with these efforts, J.R. Lapierre, Managing Director of Lincoln Hills Cares, and Tim Flynn, Program Coordinator, presented a brief PowerPoint program outlining those programs, most of which are designed for at-risk youth and veterans from the Denver area. Locally, the organization has worked with Wild Bear ecology center and Teens, Inc., in Nederland.

Discussion followed about the overall relationship with Gilpin County, and suggestions for improvements. Lincoln Hills plans to acquire historic Wink's Lodge and restore it as part of further development of the entire Lincoln Hills area and promotion of that heritage. The Commissioners directed staff to provide Mr. Lapierre with contacts for the various units of Gilpin County government (veteran's office, Parks & Recreation) and well as other local profits with which Lincoln Hills could partner in the future.

Community Development Director Tony Petersen presented a request for applicant Boulder River Ranch to amend an existing conservation easement for property located near Pactolus Road in north Gilpin County. Director Petersen explained that the property's previous owner, Dirk Larsen, dba PFFC, LLC, gave to Gilpin County a Deed of Conservation Easement on November 22, 2015, and later sold the property to Boulder River Ranch Holding Company (Boulder River Ranch). Today, Boulder River Ranch, represented by J.R. Lapierre, seeks to amend the existing conservation easement to allow additional building beyond the current 5,000 square-foot and 2,000 square-foot limits on the main lodge and outbuildings, to 10,000 square feet and 5,000 square feet, respectively. To compensate Gilpin County for open space losses and conservation value impacts, Boulder River Ranch has offered to pay \$50,000, plus additional compensation by offering onsite programs designed for Gilpin County youth, veterans and others, as part of their overall philanthropic programs. Director Petersen recommended approval of the amendment and said County Attorney Petrock has reviewed the proposed amendment and has no concerns. Director Petersen said it would be easier to delineate a specific area and restrict building to this area, rather than to approve a certain number of square feet; however, individual outbuildings would still be limited in size. He distributed an aerial photograph outlining the already disturbed area. Commissioner Watson asked about the ability of the septic system to cope with additional usage, given the sensitive area; Director Petersen said the existing leach field is based on local and state requirements and is sized correctly, as required by the existing special use permit. Discussion followed among the Commissioners about how the funds could be utilized, with each of them reiterating the need for the organization to further develop its relationships with local organizations.

Commissioner Watson moved to approve the requested Amendment to Deed of Conservation Easement in Gross. Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Boundary Line Adjustment Application—BLA #16-05. Community Development Director Tony Petersen presented a boundary line adjustment application for Melody A. and David L. Loar, reconfiguring three existing small lots, 12, 13 and 18, into two slightly larger lots, which would site the existing septic system on the same lot as the existing house. Applicant Melody Loar was present, noting that the previous owners owned all three lots and didn't recognize lot lines and weren't required to under old regulations, but it has become a problem in trying to refinance the property; the two conditions imposed by staff addressed this prospect. Director Petersen noted they existing septic system would still be far enough away from proposed lot 12A to maintain septic distances as required, and recommended approval of the application; he will wait to record the resolution and the plat until the conditions are met for refinancing. Commissioner Schmalz moved to approve BLA #16-05, for Melody A. and David L. Loar, creating new Lot 12 A, .71 acres, and new Lot 18A, .83 acres, Severance Lodge Subdivision. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Boundary Line Elimination Applications. County Planner Daniel Horn presented the following Boundary Line Elimination (BLE) applications:

BLE #16-05, Katherine R. Titze Living Trust, Lots 10 & 11, Dory Lakes Subdivision, Filing #3. Commissioner Watson moved to approve BLE #16-05, for the Titze R. Katherine Living Trust, combining Lots 10 and 11, Dory Lakes Subdivision, Filing #3, to create a new 2.1-acre parcel, Lot 010A, Dory Lakes Subdivision, Filing #3. Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

BLE #16-08, Rene Gay and Gregory Adrian, combining Lots 017, 018, 019 and 020, Block 7, and Lots 001, 002, 003, 004, 019 and 020, Block 8, South Pinecliffe Subdivision. Planner Horn noted that the consolidation of lots to create a buildable parcel, typical for this small-lot subdivision, would also include a road vacate; the road was intended as access to these lots, but is no longer needed with the proposed consolidation. The existing house is on Lot 1, which allows the BLE, as otherwise lots are too small to allow a building. Commissioner Schmalz moved to approve BLE #16-08 for Rene Gay and Gregory Adrian, combining Lots 017 ,018, 019 and 020, Block 7, and Lots 001, 002, 003, 004, 019 and 020, Block 8, South Pinecliffe Subdivision, to create a new 0.75-acre parcel, Lot 01A, Block 7, South Pinecliffe Subdivision. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

County Manager Status Report. County Manager Baker updated the Commissioners on the following items:
Monthly Departmental Report. The only monthly departmental report that had been submitted, Community Development Department, was discussed, with County Manager Baker noting that the Department's revenues were well ahead of those received last year.

Board of County Commissioners Status Reports.

Notice of Public Meetings. The public meetings in the upcoming two weeks that could be attended by more than one Commissioner and at which public business may be discussed will include:

- Gilpin Ambulance Authority, December 14, 10:00 a.m.
- NeoConnect conference call, December 14, 11 to 12:30 a.m.
- Town Hall meeting in Idaho Springs for Clear Creek County's broadband roll out, December 14, 6 pm, Idaho Springs City Hall

The Commissioners discussed whether or not to hold a Coffee with the Commissioners discussion in December, and decided to wait until January, with the 26th suggested as a possible date.

Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Watson moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2016. Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Commissioner Watson moved to approve the Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2016. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 2 to 0, with Commissioner Schmalz abstaining due to absence that day.

Public / Press Comment. *Weekly Register-Call* reporter Randy Beaudette asked when the Board of County Commissioners would make available their survey of the community's broadband assets/needs, and when responses would be collected. Commissioner Isenhart said Gilpin County would coordinate its survey with Clear Creek County's plan and should be able to move forward this week. Commissioner Watson stated that they had a timeline to follow, but for now the response period will likely be December through February.

Recess to Executive Session. Commissioner Watson moved to recess into Executive Session in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(f) to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

County Manager Employment Contract. Commissioner Schmalz moved to approve the County Manager contract for 2017 as presented. Commissioner Isenhart seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 2 to 1, with Commissioner Watson voting against.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 12:52 a.m.

Signed this 20th day of December, 2016.