

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

July 7, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on July 7, 2009, at the Gilpin County Old Courthouse. Chair Whitman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Chair Forrest Whitman; Commissioners Jeanne Nicholson and Buddy Schmalz; County Manager Roger Baker; County Attorney Jim Petrock; and Sharon Cate, Deputy Clerk to the Board.

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

- Fireside Chat regarding public health, July 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center

Legal Status Report. County Attorney Jim Petrock advised the Commissioners they would need to conduct an Executive Session to receive legal advice on the Dory Lakes Property Owners Association litigation.

Public/Press Comment. Rhonda Horowitz-Romano read a letter she had written to the Board of County Commissioners expressing her views on an ongoing problem with the animal control officer.

Board of County Commissioners Goals and Objectives—Mid-Year Report. At the beginning of each year, the Commissioners compile a list of goals and objectives and each of them chooses items or topics from the list to work on throughout the year. Today they gave status reports on the following:

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION—INITIAL STEPS

- Assess public transportation access throughout Gilpin County and beyond, including bus and rail options >> Gilpin Connector bus service has been expanded from its previous route—the Gold Mountain Village Apartments to the Community Center—to include stops at the Gilpin Library, Rollinsville, plus five (5) trips daily to Nederland. Additional stops could be added.
- Work with Boulder and Grand County Commissioners and US Forest Service to explore resources to construct a two-wheel-drive summer-only road over Rollins Pass >> Boulder County does not want to work with Gilpin and Grand counties to establish a road over Rollins Pass. Efforts will continue.
- Aggressively explore additional cell phone service opportunities, including coordinating with Town of Nederland >> The Commissioners will meet with the Nederland Town Council in August to jointly pursue cell phone service.
- Explore acquisition of Eagles' Nest property from Gilpin County RE-1 School District >> Acquisition is in process and should be completed soon.
- Explore acquisition of property for County/law enforcement shooting range. >> Community Development Director to inventory County-owned properties and evaluate their suitability for a public shooting range.

SERVICES

- Complete emergency and disaster preparedness plan >> Current plan will be updated and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be incorporated; mock disasters will be staged for training purposes.
- Continue to explore home health care services for northern Gilpin County >> Commissioner Nicholson has arranged for home health care services for Gilpin County through Family Home Health. They will become accredited once they demonstrate quality home health care to 20 or more patients, a goal they are very close to achieving.
- Research the need for senior housing facilities and explore funding opportunities >> Gilpin County will receive a grant from the Department of Local Affairs to perform an assessment of its housing needs; the firm Economic and Planning Systems has been contracted to perform the assessment.

POLICY

- Schedule public meetings on County policies like magnesium chloride use, budget and tax policy, public official travel & reimbursement policy, energy conservation and sustainability programs, and other topics as requested >> A public work session will be held on August 4th regarding the use of magnesium chloride on County roads, and on public official travel and reimbursement policy.
- Support US Forest Service in effort to obtain Little Echo Lake >> The Board of County Commissioners will write a letter supporting the Forest Service's work to obtain Little Echo Lake from Central City, if and when negotiations move forward.
- Continue responsible growth management activities:

1. Continue the Boundary line elimination program—Gilpin County nearing 1,500 buildable lots eliminated
 2. Consider purchasing open space >>
 3. Develop policy regarding acceptance of donated property >> Policy developed and approved
 4. Complete revision of zoning regulations >> Revisions approved
- Evaluate County buildings for energy efficiency; partner with the Governor’s Energy Office to develop a 3-5 year plan for increasing sustainability of all County facilities; and coordinate with the school and other entities as appropriate >> Community Center has been evaluated; Gilpin County will work with the GEO and will select a contractor to address energy-use improvements
 - Provide public with resources and consultation regarding sustainability options for private residences and commercial properties >> Current efforts are ongoing.
 - Explore possibility of expanding recycling facility to accept cardboard and types 3, 4 & 5 plastics >> Cardboard is now being accepted; certain plastics might require that an attendant is present to monitor deposits
 - Maintain at least a \$500,000 reserve >> A Tax Anticipation Note was secured as a safety net, if needed.
 - Continue development of a long-range maintenance schedule for all County buildings and appropriate equipment >> The Commissioners have toured most County-owned buildings with Facilities Manager Bill Paulman to see the areas of concern he has identified.
 - Encourage the Forest Service and the State Park to initiate and complete fire mitigation projects on public lands in Gilpin County, and encourage efforts to promote fire mitigation activities on private land in Gilpin County under priorities identified by the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Continue to offer free slash pile services & publicize County intention to purchase forest byproducts. Work to develop markets for beetle-kill wood to further economic diversity in the County. >> Commissioner Nicholson’s written report detailed the meetings held to discuss fire mitigation measures, and noted the need to work with the Forest Service to insure they don’t close roads that have been identified as fire evacuation routes in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
 - Increase general education and lobbying efforts to promote forest health >> Gilpin County provides a slash site and beetle-kill chipping program and supports homeowners associations applying for fuels treatments grants
 - Apply for grants to benefit the County from GOCO, Forestry, GEO, DOLA, TRIAD, Historic preservation, and others. Explore option of hiring/contracting with a grant writer >> These efforts are ongoing; grants are pursued more vigorously than in years past.
 - Support equitable funding opportunities for all Gilpin County youth >> The Gilpin Connector provides youth with transportation to the Gilpin County School RE-1, the Library, the Community Center and other County facilities and services.
 - Study buying watershed properties with possibility of converting agricultural wells to mitigation/supply wells, especially in Ralston Creek watershed >> Staff continues to seek watershed properties, but none have been located yet.

PUBLIC HEARING—Special Use Review—Kennel Application. Chair Whitman opened a public hearing for a special use review, SUR #09-01, for Thomas May and Michele Taluba’s application to operate a kennel at an existing site. Planner Ray Rears gave overview of the application and its relationship to the Gilpin County Master Plan and Zoning Regulations; he noted no written public comment had been received on the application. Michele Taluba was present for the public hearing. Chair Whitman opened the hearing to public comment. There being none, he closed the public comment portion of the hearing.

Commissioner Nicholson moved to approve SUR #09-01, as conditioned. Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

County Manager Status Report. County Manager Roger Baker updated the Commissioners on the following items:

Monthly Departmental Reports. The monthly departmental reports that had been submitted were discussed. The Community Development report indicates that department’s work load is down considerably due to a slow construction industry, but that the Department is in good financial condition due to unexpected revenue from the Frei [gravel] Quarry.

Paving Project on 119. The Colorado Department of Transportation has begun a resurfacing (not widening) project on Highway 119 from the Gilpin County School RE-1 to the north-County area, which complicates the expansion of the Gilpin Connector bus service.

Ballfield Scheduling. Commissioner Schmalz said the timing of adult-league softball and Little League baseball needed to be re-examined and that this year’s schedule might need to be revised to allow Little League teams ample time to practice and play. Commissioner Nicholson said children’s use of the ballfields has been

the priority since the fields were built, partly because they have less flexibility in travelling to other fields. Hopefully the County can locate more land for additional fields.

Ambulance Authority Board Appointment. Commissioner Nicholson moved to appoint Commissioner Schmalz and Richard Gee to the Gilpin Ambulance Authority Board of Directors. Commissioner Whitman seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Public / Press Comment.

Zane Laubhan, Executive Director of the Gilpin Ambulance Authority, spoke regarding the Colorado EMTS (Emergency Medical and Trauma Services) Grants Program as it pertains to Senate Bill 09-002, and asked the Board of County Commissioners to communicate to him immediately any concerns they might have with his grant applications.

Pam North of *The Mountain-Ear* asked questions about Gilpin County's recycling program.

Lynn Volkens of the *Gilpin County News/Weekly Register-Call* asked about a potential pellet factory coming to the County and if there would be a possibility of reduced-cost pellets available to Gilpin residents.

Bob Walsh asked if the Board of County Commissioners goal of obtaining watershed properties in the Ralston Creek Watershed would help solve the Dory Lakes Property Owners Association water problem. The Commissioners directed Mr. Walsh to discuss the issue with Community Development Director Tony Petersen.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Nicholson moved to adjourn to Executive Session to receive legal advice on the Dory Lakes Property Owners Association litigation. Commissioner Schmalz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Signed this 14th day of July 2009