

December 18, 2018

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Office of the Granite County Courthouse with Chairperson Bill Slaughter and Commissioner Scott Adler attending. Commissioner Barton Bonney was absent this day. Also attending was Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner-Elect Chuck Hinkle attended the morning session. Tim Ravndal with Redoubt News of Townsend attended the courthouse session.

Sheriff/Coroner Scott Dunkerson met with the Board to present his written wage increase proposal dated 12-13-2018 for dispatchers in order to keep dispatchers. The proposed wage increase requested would commence the next fiscal year. He reviewed the wages from other counties and he noted that there will no longer be any expense for union negotiations for deputies and dispatchers. He also indicated that additional 9-1-1 funds may be able to be used for dispatchers. Also, a stipend for dispatcher uniforms may be considered. The Board made no decision and Sheriff Dunkerson agreed to do further research and return on a future Board agenda.

The Board participated in the quarterly meeting of the Granite County Safety Committee. Minutes of that meeting are kept separately.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his weekly report. He reported that the crew is sanding ice and repairing equipment. Commissioner Slaughter reported that he had received a couple of compliments about the Road Department from Lower Rock Creek residents and the road sanding done there.

The Board discussed Road and Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt's salary and noted that he had received a satisfactory employee evaluation, which is confidential. Commissioner Scott Adler moved to table the matter until the first part of January to give people and the Board time to review material and when the new Commissioner, Commissioner-Elect Chuck Hinkle, will be seated. He would like to set it for January 15, 2019. Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion by the Board: Commissioner Slaughter stated that Paul Alt has accomplished a lot and that he started his position during a flood. Commissioner Slaughter said that he has contacted the Local Government Center for a comparison of road supervisor salaries and he reviewed that many counties have separate road foremen for each Commissioner district, which is expensive. Commissioner Slaughter also said that when Mr. Alt was hired that he was given probationary salary pay by the County Commission and that pay would be revisited at the one year mark. Discussion on the motion by the public:

- Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper: Presented written questions and requested that they be entered into the minutes: 1) Why isn't there a written copy of contract with Bob Weaver on file? 2) Whose insurance is listed for coverage for Bob Weaver work? 3) What is the Road and Bridge/Solid Waste supervisor's job description?**

4) What specific counties did you compare the Road and Bridge/Solid waste supervisor's salary with? 5) What is the Road and Bridge/Solid Waste supervisor's qualification for changing the position to Superintendent? Mayor Leeper verbally reviewed the questions.

- **Susie Browning:** She commented that in comparing salaries of road supervisors in other counties, need to know value of county mill or how many people supervisor is supervising or how many miles of road are being maintained. She reviewed minutes from when Paul Alt was hired and when the solid waste position was added; she inquired whether the plan is to make it retroactive. Commissioner Slaughter responded that it would not be retroactive. Susie Browning asked if a comparison had been made with other employees and elected officials; has the budget been reviewed. Commissioner Slaughter responded that elected official salaries are set by the legislature and the county Compensation Board. Also, he commented that a line item transfer in the budget could be made, depending on what the motion involves. He noted that there is budget in the Road Fund and the Bridge Fund. Commissioner Slaughter stated that Paul Alt is a salaried employee, who does not get overtime or comp time. Susie Browning commented that he makes approximately \$82,000.00 in salary plus benefits. Commissioner Slaughter reviewed what the benefits are, including health insurance and PERS retirement. Susie Browning stated that solid waste costs \$20,000 per year in salary and benefits and asked how much of a raise is planned? Commissioner Slaughter indicated that it may be \$14,000.00 for the road position only, depending on the motion. He noted that combining the road and solid waste works well due to the shared similarities in equipment. Susie Browning made a personal comment about Paul Alt and was told that this information was out of line to be brought up in a public meeting.
- **Dan Villa:** He said that he and his neighbors at Georgetown Lake are not getting their roads snowplowed on the week-ends. Commissioner Slaughter responded that the union employees must be called before Paul Alt can go out. Dan Villa asked where is the extra money coming from. Commissioner Slaughter reviewed that the Forest Service contract from last summer, which hired local vendors, added road fund revenue. Dan Villa stated that roads don't get plowed on the week-ends this year at Georgetown Lake, and he has kept track. Commissioner Adler stated that an on-call list was proposed to the road union, but was voted down.
- **Sue Peterson:** How many hours a week does he work? Paul Alt responded that it varies depending on what's going on. How many hours are spent doing solid waste work? Paul Alt said that it depends on the week. Sue Peterson commented that it seems like a large amount of money, especially to a retired school teacher.
- **John Spaeth:** Questioned the salary of the past solid waste supervisor, as he has spoken to her. Commissioner Slaughter responded that the figure he quoted included the salary and total benefits. He reviewed what the previous solid waste manager's duties included. Commissioner Slaughter responded that the current salary, including benefits, for the solid waste clerk in the Treasurer's Office is \$27,912.47.

- **Dick Motta:** He told the Board that they must have a projection of what this proposed raise is going to cost, including benefits. Commissioner Slaughter indicated that it will depend upon how the motion is made. Dick Motta said that the people in this room are entitled to the projection. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw indicated that it could be calculated and put on the county's website. Dick Motta stated that an appropriation would need to come from another fund. Commissioner Slaughter indicated that there is extra cash in the Road Fund at this time from the Forest Service agreement. Dick Motta stated that the people are being overtaxed because of funds remaining in the PILT fund. Commissioner Slaughter noted that the PILT funds come from the federal government through the state, so the state is aware of how much PILT funds the county has. Dick Motta stated that the people here deserve to know what the motion will be. Commissioner Slaughter indicated that the figures discussed today are public information. Dick Motta asked where the funds were coming from. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw responded that it will be covered in the Resolution.
- **Susie Browning:** She asked a question about the amount of cash remaining in the Road Department budget. Commissioner Slaughter stated the figures from the budget of \$605,250.03. Susie Browning asked that the SRS money be considered, as it is possible that it may not be reauthorized in the future. She apologized for her previous remarks, which were out of line.
- **Dan Villa:** If you are going to give a certain position a 20% raise, how will it affect other employees? Commissioner Slaughter reviewed that when he came into office, there was no road supervisor; then one was hired and he then went to private industry. Dan Villa said that other salaried positions will look at this and make the same request.
- **Tim Ravndal:** He did not intend to comment at first, but wanted to add some thoughts now. He stated that salary comparisons amongst in-state counties are resulting in disputes across the state. He said that cash reserves are to be used for the carryover at the end of the year until the new budget is set; it is essential. Many counties are using union employees and wage analysis becomes problematic for county commissioners. The public has a right to know what is going on. He is not a resident of Granite County. Spotlight must stay on transparency.
- **Sandra-Leah Barbara:** Noted that she has run three businesses. Is budget for road maintenance able to handle a substantial raise? Commissioner Slaughter indicated that funds have come in since the budget was set and that the PILT funds are there for a rainy day. She feels that a raise in the middle of the budget year sets a precedent. She also commented that she does not feel that Rumsey Road is adequately maintained.
- **County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw:** Commented that the sheriff's salary is set by County Commission upon recommendation by County Compensation Board; and that the County Compensation Board is comprised of members of the public and elected officials. Commissioner Slaughter noted that by law deputies make a percentage of the elected official's salary.

- **Elena Gagliano:** When will the information be put on the website? Commissioner Slaughter stated that it would be on the county's website by the end of the week.
- **Susie Browning:** Suggested the Board review minutes from May 2017 as she believes the Board did not state their intent at that time to revisit Mr. Alt's salary as they are doing now.
- **Dick Motta:** Asked if Mr. Alt's hire date was in May of 2017, and Commissioner Slaughter responded that is correct.
- **Tim Allen:** The motion, when made, could be made several ways; whether a raise will be given all this year or part this year and part next year. He requested a copy of on what basis the evaluations are conducted.

The motion carried unanimously. Others signing in were Drummond Town Attorney Jana McGill and J. B. Hendrix.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.56 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 11.28 inches below full pool with 35.9 cfs through the power plant and an estimated 35.9 cfs over the weir. Even though absent from the meeting, Commissioner Bonney sent a timely written note to the Board recommending to reduce the total outflow to 20 cfs since the lake level is so close to one foot below full pool. This recommendation by Commission Bonney had already been approved by motion and vote of the Commission within the past month. Commissioner Adler moved to reduce the outflow to 20 cfs at Commissioner Bonney's suggestion and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

The Board reviewed county claims for November 2018. The claims were approved on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Slaughter. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner-Elect Chuck Hinkle met with the Board and presented a budget request for the Granite County Forest Management Advisory Committee. He presented the written budget request from the committee for \$2,500.00 for the next six months of the fiscal year. He reported that he stepped down from the committee as a voting member and Patti Kanduch was elected chairperson. Commissioner Slaughter moved to adopt the budget request and to take it from the current Commission budget. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public discussion from Tim Ravndal noted that PILT funds are often used in other counties for forest advisory committees. The motion carried. Elena Gagliano inquired whether the vacancy on the committee would be advertised, and the Board agreed to publicly advertise for a new committee member. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

Patrick Little with the Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance met with the Board and gave an update on the association's activities. He has been teaching an EMT class of 9 people which will graduate the middle of February. He noted that there is a new state exam,

which he feels will be beneficial to those taking the class. He noted that he was happy the Board is publicly bidding the completion of the new Philipsburg ambulance garage. He explained that ambulance volunteers do not need to live in town, which is the perception, but qualified drivers can drive the ambulance to the scene if an EMT is available there. Patrick Little (John Martin, Jim Manley owner) explained that his employer, The Ranch at Rock Creek, is allowing him the time to teach the class. The Board agreed to write a letter of appreciation to the ranch manager and the ranch owner.

Bid proposals for the status of and completion of the Philipsburg Ambulance Garage were publicly opened and reviewed by the Board. An advertisement soliciting the proposals was published in the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper on December 6 and 13, 2018, and posted on the county's website. Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe opened the only proposal received from Doug Graybeal Construction and read it aloud as follows: According to Doug Graybeal Construction's written bid, to complete the ambulance garage would cost the amount of \$110,114.00 (not included any exterior sewer or water lines or hook-up); and the estimate provided regarding the value of existing structure as it now stands was stated by Doug Graybeal Construction to be \$181,060.00. Patrick Little, with the Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance Association, informed the Board that the ambulance budget will not allow for the total cost of the bid to complete the building. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw advised the Board to visit with the contractor to see if the construction can be done in phases as the Philipsburg Ambulance budget allows. Commissioner Adler moved to have Doug Graybeal meet with the Board to see if the construction could be completed in phases. Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. Dick Motta reviewed the two items requested in the proposal; one written bid to finish the ambulance garage building and a written estimate valuing the ambulance garage building as it stands today. Motion carried.

The Board held a public hearing at the Georgetown Lake Fire Hall, 100 Fire Lane Anaconda, Montana, on the petition to make portions of Hilltop Lane and Lucky Lane county roads. Notice of the public hearing was published in the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper on December 6 and 13, 2018 and on the county's website. County personnel attending were Commission Chairperson Bill Slaughter and Commissioner Scott Adler, County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, Planning Director Linda Bouck and Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe. Commissioner Barton Bonney was absent this day. Members of the public attending were J. J. Johnston and Chris Wyant. Everyone present was given a packet of information containing the County Surveyor's Report received on 11-20-2018, the Memorandum from the Granite County Planning Board dated 12-3-2016, and a copy of the petition. Chairperson Slaughter opened the public hearing at 1:30 p.m. County Attorney Bradshaw explained that this is the second public hearing on the petition, as the Board did not have the County Surveyor's report at the first hearing held on December 20, 2016. Linda Bouck reviewed the Planning Board's recommended denial of the petition since the roads do not meet county road standards, there is no 60-foot wide easement, no current 24-foot driving surface and the roads are not adding new access to public or private land. Commissioner Slaughter indicated that the county previously had a one-ton

snow plow truck, but that new equipment is much larger. J. J. Johnston, a member of the Board of Directors of the Georgetown Lake Homeowners' Association, noted that Denton's Tracts was one of the first subdivisions at Georgetown Lake. Commissioner Adler commented that there is no place to put the snow on those narrow roads or for a snowplow to turn around. J. J. Johnston stated that the Georgetown Lake Homeowners' Association, of which is a member of the board of directors, feels that it has been county maintained for years and that should continue; maintenance was stopped in 2016. He continued that he was the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation at the Job Corps when Granite County did resurfacing of gravel roads around the lake and in several subdivisions. He noted that many county roads don't meet standards. He commented that a list is being put together of roads which the county had maintained and improved. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the County erroneously believed Lucky Lane to be a County road which it is not; and that the County now has a written Resolution in place stating the County will not maintain non-county roads unless there is a written maintenance agreement approved by the Board. Linda Bouck noted that the Planning Board recommends a maintenance agreement rather than making it a county road. She also noted that making it a county road does not guarantee maintenance (law allows Board to determine the amount of maintenance that is done to each county road); there are many non-maintained county roads in the county. J. J. Johnston commented that Georgetown Lake residents object to paying road tax and not getting any maintenance. Commissioner Slaughter noted that road taxes are used for all county roads, not roads in specific subdivisions. There was no further discussion or public comment was given. Chairperson Slaughter closed the hearing at 2:00 p.m.

Following the public hearing, at 2:00 p.m. the Board considered a decision on the petition to make portions of Hilltop Lane and Lucky Lane county roads. This portion of the meeting was also held at the Georgetown Lake Fire Hall, 100 Fire Lane, Anaconda, Montana. Commissioner Adler moved to deny the petition on the recommendation of the Planning Board and the County Surveyor's specific concerns. The Board fully considered all public comment given on the matter. Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw reviewed the Montana statute relating to the surveyor's report and recommendation. J. J. Johnston inquired about maintenance in the summer. Commissioner Slaughter stated that the county declines to do maintenance on roads which are not county roads as there are private contractors available, but private contractors are not available for dust abatement. The motion carried. Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the decision now requires a Resolution of the Board. J. J. Johnston commented about county maintenance on Rumsey Road, which he stated is not a county road, and does not meet standards. The Board responded that Rumsey Road is a county road and that most of it does meet road standards. J. J. Johnston inquired about what is going to happen to the lower road at Georgetown Lake and the Board informed him that a FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) grant is in progress and requires county matching funds; also, a different federal grant requiring no county matching funds is being investigated. There

being no further public comment, the session was recessed by Chairperson Slaughter at 2:10 p.m. and the Board returned to the Granite County Courthouse.

Chairperson Slaughter reconvened the session at 2:40 p.m. in the Commission Office of the courthouse.

Public Comment: Tim Allen contacted the Board by speaker telephone regarding the status of Viking Lane, which is a Forest Service road. The Board informed him that discussion has been held on upgrading the road through the cooperation of the county, Forest Service and the Viking Lane homeowners, but getting any assistance from the homeowners was difficult.

Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper and town council member Cary McLure met with the Board and requested the continuation of the joint meetings among the Town of Drummond, Town of Philipsburg and the Commission. Commissioner Slaughter indicated that the Board is reluctant to continue the meetings if they are going to be conducted unprofessionally. Cary McLure stated that she believes there is value in the communication among the towns and the county. The Board agreed to have a joint session on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Philipsburg, if Mayor Daniel Reddish is agreeable to host and conduct the meeting.

Tim Ravndal met with the Board and inquired about the status of the petition for a portion of Lower Rock Creek to withdraw from the Granite County Hospital District. The Board informed him that a hearing has been held and a decision is scheduled to be made in January 2019.

Correspondence: The Board reviewed a letter dated 12-17-2018 from Katie Muhly RN, a candidate who had been formally offered the Public Health Nurse position by the Board after being on the Board's posted agenda, requesting either some assistance in obtaining her bachelor's degree in nursing or be guaranteed a raise of \$3.00/hour when her bachelor's degree in nursing is obtained. The Board agreed to a guaranteed raise of \$3.00/hour upon proof that her bachelor's degree in nursing has been obtained and notice is provided to the County. The action was taken on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Slaughter. The motion carried. The Board agreed to revise the offer of employment accordingly. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that it is his opinion that getting a Public Health Nurse hired right away is critical and constitutes a health emergency as the County has been without a public health nurse since Annie Young resigned as of November 9, 2018, and Ms. Muhly was the only applicant for the position; therefore, this decision on the increased wage does not have to be on the Board's agenda.

The Board reviewed final documents for the DNRC Grant Reimbursement for the Flint Creek Dam Renewable Resource Enhancement Project (RPG-18-1671). Commissioner Adler moved to approve the final documents and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the

motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Chairperson Slaughter signed a Vendor Invoice in the total grant amount of \$125,000.00 and a Final Report on project prepared by grantee consultant Great West Engineering of Helena.

The Board considered a response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) letter dated 9-7-2018 regarding the second Part 12D Inspection Report on the Flint Creek Dam and the Potential Failure Mode Analysis Supplemental Report. The Board agreed to have Jeremiah Theys, engineer with Great West Engineering of Helena, contact DOWL Engineering of Billings, the firm which completed the second Part 12D Inspection Report, requesting a schedule and cost for the response to the FERC. The plan for contracting with DOWL (or other engineering firm) is that the matter will be placed on an upcoming Board agenda for a decision.

The Board referred to an email dated 12-9-2018 from Jeremiah Theys, Project Manager with Great West Engineering of Helena and considered amendments to Great West Engineering's contract for a report and as-built drawings for the Flint Creek Dam Rehabilitation Project. The cost was quoted at \$3,500.00 for that work and a cost quoted at \$2,800.00 for an 11-month walkthrough with the contractor in advance of the warranty period to identify any correction items. Commissioner Adler moved to agree to both amendments and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

Draft minutes for December 4 and 11, 2018 regular meetings were reviewed by the Board. The minutes were approved on the motion of Commissioner Slaughter and second by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

As an administrative action, the Board approved a "Modification of Grant or Agreement" with the U.S. Forest Service for the Meyers-Little Hogback Road Maintenance and Sediment Reduction to a revised expiration date of March 31, 2021 instead of December 31, 2018. The action was taken on the motion of Commissioner Adler with a second by Commissioner Slaughter. The motion carried.

The session adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

December 25, 2018

No regular Commission meeting was scheduled or held.