

April 23, 2019

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 Commissioners Scott Adler and Charles Hinkle attending. Also attending was Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his weekly report. The report included that water is rising throughout the county, including Bear Gulch and Capron Creek; culverts cannot handle the amount of water coming down. Areas are signed. Blading continues as weather allows. He reported that he had contacted the state Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding use of county roads when state roads are closed; there is a new person in that position and Paul Alt expects to hear more this week. The need for gravel for later in the season was discussed.

Discussion was held on the proposed sales agreement with Western States Cat of Missoula for a new 2019 Caterpillar 160M3 AWD motor grader (Serial Number: N9K01087 ID: E0049719) at a price of \$347,988.00 plus miscellaneous items (including 14' plus moldboard, front halogen headlights, tier IV engine, cold weather plus package, rear vision camera, snow wing, snow wing frame mount, extreme duty electric starter, etc.) of \$23,088.00, for a total price of \$371,076.00; with a trade proposal on Granite County's Caterpillar 140G motor grader (Serial Number: 3MD03082) for a credit of \$55,000.00 for the machine, a credit of \$5,000.00 for the front blade and a credit of \$2,000.00 for the snow wing, for a total trade in of \$62,000.00; resulting in a total net due of \$309,076.00 and a total amount financed of \$309,376.00, which includes Cat's finance fee of \$300.00. Cat did provide a written valuation of all of the trade-in items. The Board agreed to trade in the older model 140G motor grader and to keep the 2013 Caterpillar 160M2 motor grader, as it is a newer machine. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that Caterpillar is a Sourcewell vendor, Sourcewell being a valid government purchasing cooperative, so this purchase of a piece of equipment over \$80,000 does not require formal, competitive bidding so long as the equipment is purchased by the county, being a participating member of Sourcewell, at a substantial savings. It was noted by the Board that this new motor grader was being purchased at substantial savings. Discussion was held on trading in some of the older county motor graders. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the sales agreement (#Q000141542-4), with accompanying finance proposal allowing for installment payments with a balloon payment for the final payment and guaranteed buy-back option after 5 years, between Western States Cat and Granite County as presented. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed solid waste rates with Paul Alt, Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Superintendent, regarding the fees paid by non-county taxpayers (Note: Formal dump cards are issued to those paying property taxes in Granite County) and the cost to dispose of that waste. Paul Alt noted that non-county taxpayers are not paying enough, at 6 cents a

pound, to cover the cost of disposal of the waste at the Missoula landfill. Commissioner Hinkle moved to increase rate to 20 cents per pound for non-county taxpayers, without a dump card, effective May 1, 2019. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.65 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 10.20 inches below full pool with an estimated 40.0 cfs through the power plant and an estimated 44.7 cfs down below at the weir gage, which includes the lake outflow and other water runoff between the dam and the weir gage. Commissioner Hinkle moved to make no adjustment in the outflow and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The Board contacted Paul Tallon with Flint Creek Hydro LLC regarding the drop in outflow on Saturday and he reported that the generator had tripped offline. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended and agreed to notify Paul Tallon, with Flint Creek Hydro, LLC, of the Board's decision.

The Board received and accepted the resignation of Rick Day, Disaster and Emergency Services/Safety Coordinator, effective May 6, 2019. The Board indicated their appreciation for his dedicated service to the county.

The Board attended and participated in a "Dialogue on Poverty" at the Granite County Museum and Cultural Center in Philipsburg. Also attending was Margie Seccomb, Executive Director of Action Inc. (formerly Human Resources Development Council) of Butte and Libby Brunell with Cascadia Business Development of Missoula. The three County Commissioners and the Commission's Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe were the only ones who attended this meeting.

Patti Kanduch, Chairperson of the Forest Management Advisory Committee (F-MAC), was unable to keep her appointment to meet with the Board. Commissioner Hinkle, who attends the F-MAC meetings, reported that the committee has finalized the policy on coordination, particularly with the U.S. Forest Service. Also, it was the committee's consensus was that the Forest Service should fight all forest fires, regardless of the size and with the understanding that the U.S. Forest Service will not be able to control them all. He also reported that a consulting professional forester may be beneficial to the committee's work in the future. Scott Sylvester, who attends the F-MAC meetings, reported that it is the committee's intent is to put the group's coordination policy in the county's growth policy and to bring in some guest speakers appropriate to the committee's mission. It was indicated that Granite County's Planning Director Linda Bouck was given notice of this requested change to the County's Growth Policy. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended and reviewed the law regarding Growth Policies and language in such policies regarding coordination with federal agencies.

The Board considered drafting a letter to the Montana Congressional Delegation regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) onerous regulations on small

hydroelectric developments, like the Flint Creek Project. The Board conferred with engineer Jeremiah Theys with Great West Engineering of Helena, by telephone conference call, regarding elements of the letter, including new regulations (spillway inspection, dam safety audit, paid \$20,000 for Part 12D inspection and now \$40,000 for a more specialized inspection, expense for documents which are completed and sit on a shelf; hydroelectric generation on a small scale may not be economically feasible. Commissioner Hinkle moved that County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, engineer Jeremiah Theys, and Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe meet, with Jeremiah Theys participating by telephone, and work on a draft of a letter for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion was held with Jeremiah Theys on the cost of developing a grant application for funding through the federal BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) program for the road around Georgetown Lake, which will be discussed further on a future Board agenda. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None.

The Board reviewed draft minutes for the April 16, 2019 regular session. The minutes were approved as presented on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

The Board participated in a training session for all county elected officials and department heads in the District Courtroom of the courthouse presented by County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw on the Granite County Procurement Policy.

At 4:00 p.m. the Board participated in the quarterly Granite County Board of Health meeting which included the noticed public hearing on the Variance Request from the county's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Regulation, Section 4.1, by Dan Semmens of Missoula for a septic system and septic drain field for lots 16 and 17 of Moose Lake Acres No. 1 Subdivision. Minutes of that Board of Health meeting are kept separately.

The session adjourned at 6:00 p.m.