

**April 30, 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 some blading is getting done; cold patch arrived last week and is being used; dump truck with engine problems is in Missoula for inspection and possible repair; and discussion was held on renting equipment in the future.**

**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: TBD ID: E0052144) at a price of \$347,988.00, 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 and a 2018 Balderson 12' snow wing for \$6,000.00; for a total price of \$377,076.00; with a trade proposal on the county's Caterpillar 140H motor grader (Serial Number: ASD00741) for \$70,000.00; for a total amount due of \$307,076.00, with the amount to be financed of \$307,376.00, which includes the Cat finance fee of \$300.00. The Board agreed to trade in the county's older model Cat 140H motor grader to upgrade with new equipment. 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, and if purchased at substantial savings. It was noted by the Board that this new motor grader was being purchased at substantial savings. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the sales agreement (#Q000141564-1), with accompanying finance proposal allowing for installment payments with a balloon payment for the final payment and guaranteed buy-back option after five 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 minimum fee to dispose of waste for out of district people, which is currently \$2 per pound and he suggested that it be raised to \$7.50 per pound. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended. Commissioner Adler moved to support the suggested increase and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Paul Alt indicated that he is setting up an extra dumpster in Philipsburg for the summer.**

**Patrick Little with the Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance met with the Board and gave an update on the organization. He noted that six new EMT's have been trained. He reported that three Ford C Class ambulances (2 used but needing slight repairs and third one that**

would be used for parts) can be donated to the Philipsburg ambulance from a service in California; one to be used in Philipsburg for calls; one for hospital transfers and one for parts; the only cost would be to transport them from southern California. The Board notes that the Ambulance Association has the funds for the transportation of the vehicles in its budget. Commissioner Slaughter suggested that the ambulance service get a service agreement with a local business for regular ambulance maintenance. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that there is a new Procurement Policy in place for the county. Patrick Little noted that an ambulance transport vehicle is valuable because it leaves the 9-1-1 medical ambulance in service in the community. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the transfer of the titles of the ambulances to Granite County and the transportation costs, to be taken from the Philipsburg Ambulance budget, of the ambulances to Philipsburg from California. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Patrick Little noted that the group's by-laws will be presented soon for Commission approval. He requested some gravel in front of the new ambulance garage.

The Board discussed a grant application for the Forest Management Advisory Committee (F-MAC) from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Commissioner Hinkle noted that the decision had not gone through the F-MAC committee. Commissioner Hinkle indicated that the grant application could go through the Commissioners to potentially hire a professional forester to facilitate coordination with the Forest Service, up to \$20,000.00 with a 10% match. Commissioner Hinkle moved for the Commission to make a grant application to DNRC for the purpose of hiring a part-time forester and other professionals on forest management. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Scott Sylvester attended and informed the Board that he would not be available to fulfill the forester position in the future due to other conflicts. Elena Gagliano commented by speaker telephone that discussion had not occurred at the F-MAC meeting and she suggested that some training be held on open meetings. Commissioner Slaughter explained that it will be advantageous for the Commission to have a professional involved in forest management. Once the grant application is completed, the matter would again be placed on the Board's agenda for final approval.

As an administrative matter, the Board agreed to request contractor Jon Bergerson to inspect the roof of the Granite County Jail and to report his findings to the Board.

County Extension Agent Ben Hauptman met with the Board and reviewed the continuing Noxious Weed Trust Fund Project Grant Agreements through the Montana Department of Agriculture for the Middle Fork (\$4,012.00) and for the Douglas (\$26,146.00) Projects. Both agreements were approved on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Slaughter suggested that the weed chemical be put out to public bid to obtain the lowest cost. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended. Ben Hauptman noted

that the county weed program is licensed to sell chemicals to the public and the Department of Agriculture handles issuance and enforcement of weed spraying licenses. He noted that the weed program is fully staffed for the season and weed spraying will begin tomorrow.

The Board discussed down payment assistance with HOME Program funds, which assists lower income people with the down payment to purchase a home. The county must designate an office to complete the Environmental Review Record to determine if a home proposed for the program is in a flood area or in the Civilian Airport Runway Clear Zone. The county is not responsible to fund any project but would be responsible to complete the environmental review for any property that will use HOME funding for down payments and closing costs. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw summarized the program and noted that county's agreement to participate would be done by resolution. Planning Director Linda Bouck met with the Board and agreed that it could be her office to do the Environmental Review Record. Commissioner Hinkle moved to go forward with the Resolution and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Craig Erickson, Grant Manager, and engineer Jeremiah Theys, both with Great West Engineering of Helena, met with the Board to discuss the grant application process for the road around Georgetown Lake through the federal BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) grant program. Craig Erickson explained that his role in the company is to find funding for clients. He explained that the program has been around for 10 years; possibly a 20% match, but feds may reduce that; application deadline is July 15, 2019; primary selection criteria were reviewed; the secondary selection criteria were reviewed; applicant must have "demonstration of ability to proceed" projects (formerly known as "shovel ready" projects); and environmental and right-of-way review must be completed. Commissioner Slaughter explained that a Federal Highway Administration executive suggested that it could be a good program for the county. Craig Erickson stated that this is the most competitive federal grant program they work with and there is a huge investment by the county before the application is submitted and he indicated that the county is not ready at this point to submit a grant application of this magnitude this year. Jeremiah Theys indicated that transportation projects frequently die on the environmental or right-of-way issues. Craig Erickson noted that no upfront expenses can be claimed in the grant funding. He also noted that planning grants are available to do the environmental and right-of-way, which also includes some investment by the county. Craig Erickson reported that Hill County is in the process of applying for a planning grant through the BUILD program for all county roads in the county. The Board agreed to see how Hill County, and the entire state, does on BUILD grant applications this fall.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.74 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 9.12 inches below full pool with an estimated 40.0 cfs through the power plant and an estimated 42.9 cfs over the weir. Commissioner Adler moved to make no adjustment in the outflow and Commissioner

**Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended and agreed to notify Paul Tallon, with Flint Creek Hydro, LLC, of the Board's decision.**

**Kari Auclair, the new Area/Regional Director for Western Montana Mental Health met with the Board and introduced herself. Discussion was held on the mental health needs of the county. She reported that there is a video link at the Granite County Medical Center for personal contact with a mental health professional. Western Montana Mental Health is now divided into four areas and Kari Auclair's area includes Granite County. She has been participating in the HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) grant meetings at the medical center. Her goal is to provide mental health services locally; prevention in the schools; crisis response; and response to an aging population. The possibility of a short-term bed at the medical center was discussed.**

**Barbara Cahill, board member of the newly created Philipsburg Area Library District, who was appointed this position by the Board of County Commissioners, met with the Board and presented a written update. She highlighted the events, programs, grants, remodel/expansion (including asbestos removal and architectural services), transition from a town library to a multijurisdictional district library, and an art fundraising effort to be held at The Ranch At Rock Creek in June. She noted that the library is open 33 hours per week and she plans to report to the Board quarterly.**

**Public Comment: None.**

**Correspondence: At the request of Floodplain Administrator Linda Bouck, the Board wrote a letter to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Water Operations Division, in support of updating the county's floodplain maps.**

**The Board reviewed draft minutes for the April 23, 2019 regular session. The minutes were approved as revised on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried.**

**The Board discussed a formal policy for landowners to request a road name change for addressing purposes and reviewed a sample policy. The Board took no action and agreed to place the matter on a future agenda for a final decision.**

**The county commission session adjourned at 2:45 p.m.**

**Union Negotiations:**

**At 3:00 p.m. negotiations were held between the County and Granite County Road Unit in which Commissioner Scott Adler represented Granite County. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended on behalf of Granite County. The State Union Representative, Craig Davis, along with local representatives, John Hoehne, and Nickie Cayko, attended for the**

**road department union. The Union is Granite County Road Unit, IUOE Local #400. The negotiations are ongoing.**