

May 7, 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 did not meet with the Board as he is looking for rollers for the Road Department for potential purchase. Commissioner Adler reported on the dump truck that is down for repair and that the engine head is being evaluated.

The Board discussed the revision of the written Solid Waste District's policies regarding fees at both transfer sites. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw discussed the proposed policies regarding fees and composting. Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the revised Granite County Solid Waste District Policies and Procedures Manual. These new written policies only changed the "out of district" fees, in writing, that were changed by the Board over the past few weeks. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the possible termination of carcass composting at the Drummond Solid Waste Container Site. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended. Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper attended by speaker telephone. Commissioner Adler noted that the crew is operating the composting site properly, but it should be not be near a town. Commissioner Slaughter noted that water runs through the carcass site and under the Interstate Highway, which he feels is a huge issue. Water quality concerns were discussed by the Board. Mayor Leeper said it is not a good thing for the businesses on the east end of Drummond due to the odor. Discussion was held by the Board on possibly permanently shutting the carcass compost site down today or waiting until the end of calving season. Commissioner Adler noted that there have been several complaints about the odor coming from the site into Drummond, as the site is just too close to town and in the wrong location generally. Commissioner Slaughter stated that he has contacted several ranchers in the lower valley for possible places to locate the carcass composting away from Drummond without success. The Board discussed setting a date of June 1, 2019, to shut the carcass compost site down. Mayor Leeper noted that she agreed with a permanent shutdown of this site for such composting, and that even though the site would be shut down that the smell likely will not go away immediately. Commissioner Adler moved to make the last day to receive any animal carcasses of May 22, 2019, with a final shut down (permanent, not just for the season) of the site on June 1, 2019. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. The Board agreed to send a letter regarding the shutdown process to the Granite Conservation District, which was involved in establishing the site, with a copy of the letter to the Philipsburg Mail newspaper, the Town of Drummond, Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Superintendent Paul Alt, and the state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and to post a copy of the letter on the county's website. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The Board contacted Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes by

telephone and requested that he inspect the carcass site for sanitation and submit a timely report to the Board.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.72 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 9.36 inches below full pool with an estimated 40.0 cfs through the power plant and an estimated 41.7 cfs over the weir below the power plant. 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.

Commissioner Adler reported on the union negotiations with the Granite County Road Department Union, IUOE Local No. 400. He reported that the union's request of working four days a week all year was not negotiable due to the safety factor of snow plowing on school bus routes five days a week. Clerk and Recorder Sarah Graham explained that on the county's current pay matrix step increases are 2% every two years and that the road department has its own matrix, including the 75 cents per hour pay increase in each step given for fiscal year 2018-2019 as stated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement with the union. She suggested that the 75 cents per hour be added to the base starting rate on the road employees pay matrix to simplify the payroll process. She presented, at Commissioner Adler's request, a pay matrix with a 1% increase each year and she suggested that four ten hour shifts run from the first Monday of April to the last Thursday of October (rather than April first to October 31st) to not split the work week for payroll purposes. Commissioner Slaughter moved to authorize Commissioner Adler to present the following counter proposal to the union; ten hour shifts from first Monday in April to the last Thursday in October; Sarah Graham's proposed road department pay matrix (marked Exhibit A, proposed new pay matrix with 30-steps) which includes a pay matrix of 1% step increase each year based on satisfactory evaluations; a three year agreement; and not having to negotiate for a COLA. County Attorney Bradshaw agreed to draft the counter proposal (and attached the Exhibit A pay matrix and send it to the Union after the Board reviews it and finds the counter proposal to be acceptable. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a draft grant proposal to the DNRC for County Engagement in Federal Lands Forest Management. Commissioner Hinkle complimented Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe for his assistance on the draft proposal. Commissioner Hinkle moved to submit the grant application for \$20,000.00 and to provide \$1,000.00 in matching funds and \$1,000.00 of in-kind contribution. There was no Board discussion. Elena Gagliano commented that she is not in favor of hiring a forester and that the grant was not discussed in the Forest Management Advisory Committee (F-MAC) meeting. Commissioner Slaughter explained that an expert contracted forester could be of assistance in providing professional guidance to the Commission and to the F-MAC, if requested by the forest management committee; and could be an independent contractor. Elena Gagliano noted that she was agreeable to the forester being an independent contractor. Commissioner Hinkle noted that the grant application information became available after

the most recent F-MAC meeting and that he had discussed it with committee Chairperson Patti Kanduch. Elena Gagliano expressed her frustration with the lack of communication to the F-MAC committee members, and she further stated that she is not in favor of any government grants because there are so many strings attached. Commissioner Slaughter then called for further comment. There was none. The motion passed unanimously.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of Granite County Hospital District met with the Board and presented the monthly financial update including; a financial report dated 5-7-2019 with projected cash available of negative (\$80,335), projected deposits of \$465,000, accounts payable of negative (\$150,000) for projected cash reserves of \$234,665 (20 days of operation); and an Administrator's Report dated April 30, 2019. She highlighted that the interim cost report resulted in a reduction in payments for the remainder of the fiscal year; state Medicaid expansion is a good thing for the facility; most dental supplies and equipment have been removed from the facility; dental records have been transferred at the patient's request. She expressed concern that swing bed occupancy has been very low, which seriously affects the cash flow at the facility. She reported on the bidding for the installation of the foundation for the building for the CT scan and that the bids came in over estimates and the project will be rebid. She noted that the CT scan equipment and the modular building to house the CT scan are ready at the manufacturers. Also, she reported that follow-up calls will be made to each clinic visit patient.

Commissioner Hinkle informed the Board that he will be absent from the state from May 10 to May 24, 2019.

The Board reviewed the position descriptions for the County Safety Coordinator and DES (Disaster and Emergency Services) Coordinator. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the position descriptions, as revised. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2019-14 "A Granite County Resolution Agreeing To Prepare The Environmental Review Record For The NeighborWorks Montana HOME Grant Application." Planning Director Linda Bouck met with the Board and explained the program, which provides up to \$25,000 as a deferred loan for home buyers. She indicated that if Granite County does not participate in the program, that the loans may still be available to qualifying county residents. Commissioner Adler moved to not move ahead with Resolution 2019-14 and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. During Board discussion, Commissioner Slaughter noted that the Board is not against the NeighborWorks Montana HOME Program, but that the county does not want to participate directly in the program. During public comment on the motion, Elena Gagliano read a portion of a newspaper story which objected to the use of the NeighborWorks Program as it results in a lien on the property and she commented that it is in the county's growth policy that the people do not want any involvement in governmental low interest loan programs. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2019-15 “A Granite County Resolution Designating the Granite County Planning Director As The Environmental Preparer For The NeighborWorks Montana HOME Grant Application For Down Payment Assistance.” The Board agreed that because Resolution 2019-14 is not moving forward, that Resolution 2019-15 will also not move forward and is tabled.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: The Board agreed to write a letter of appreciation to former Disaster and Emergency Services/Safety Coordinator Rick Day.

The Board reviewed draft minutes for the April 30, 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 session adjourned at 2:30 p.m.