

June 11, 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 report, which included that the crew is continuing to blade roads and is putting down magnesium chloride. Commissioner Adler brought forward Rusty Bruce's request to have the county road department put mag chloride on about two miles of Fox Hill subdivision roads, for which Rusty Bruce will reimburse the county. Paul Alt indicated that it has been done in the past when the crew has time. The Board agreed that it could be done later in the season.

The Board discussed advertising for hourly rates for equipment for the Forest Service Road Project for this construction season. Paul Alt indicated that he has contacted every contractor in the county and requested them to submit a proposal. Commissioner Hinkle voiced his objection to the use of federal funds for projects using hourly rates and he continued that he felt it should be bid by the project; he also noted that it is not on today's Commission agenda. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw indicated that in his opinion what the county is doing with the Forest Service contract is legal, and also noted that while formal, competitive bidding is not required on this project (being a project to restore damaged roads after a fire), newspaper bidding on the project would still be advisable.

Pickup truck purchase for the county Road and Bridge Department was discussed by the Board. The following two proposals were received:

Karl Tyler Chevrolet of Missoula for a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT 4x4 Crew Cab, price \$39,107.83, trade of 2017 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 \$20,000.00, doc fee \$191.00, leaving a balance of \$19,298.83.

Lithia Ford of Missoula for a 2019 Ford F150, price \$43,294.00, trade of 2017 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 \$21,600.00, doc fee \$299.00, leaving a balance of \$21,993.00.

This substantial discounting from both Karl Tyler and Lithia Ford is because these vendors are members of Sourcewell, a government purchasing cooperative. Commissioner Adler moved to accept the proposal of Karl Tyler Chevrolet. Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion and commented that the trade should be made while the 2017 Chevrolet pickup is under 100,000 miles and worth something on trade. During discussion, Commissioner Hinkle commented that he does not feel that pickups should be traded every two years. Commissioner Adler noted that it is a good idea to keep the county vehicles up to date for the Road and Sheriff's Departments. The motion carried with Commissioners Slaughter and Adler voting in favor of the motion and Commissioner Hinkle opposing the motion.

Accounting of compensatory time for Road Department employees was discussed. Paul Alt reported that compensatory time will be accounted for on the road crew's individual time cards from now on, as requested by the Board.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,429.52 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately .24 inches above full pool with an estimated 42.3 cfs through the power plant and an estimated 42.3 cfs over the weir below the power plant. The Board reviewed the report dated June 10, 2019, from Dave Amman with DNRC. Commissioner Adler moved to make no adjustment in the outflow at 42.3 cfs. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed county claims for May 2019. Commissioner Adler recused himself from voting on claim number 21441 for Adler Towing. Claim Number 015205 for Montana DEQ for burning permits was disallowed until more information is received. Independent auditor Donald N. Davies introduced himself to Commissioner Hinkle and observed the claims approval process. The claims were approved on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

The Granite County Compensation Board met at 11:00 a.m. to set annual salaries for the 2019-2020 fiscal year for county elected officials. Compensation Board members attending were Commissioners Slaughter, Adler and Hinkle, citizen members Cathy Smith, Terrie Wilson, Carl Sundstrom (by speaker telephone), County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, Clerk and Recorder Sarah Graham, and Treasurer Vicki Harding. Citizen member Hal Seward was unable to attend. Also attending were Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe, Philipsburg Mayor Daniel Reddish and Philipsburg Town Attorney Robert Medof. Carl Sundstrom noted that Clerk and Recorder Sarah Graham had indicated that there is sufficient funds to cover the 2.4% COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index). Cathy Smith and Terrie Wilson both indicated that they are in favor of the 2.4% COLA. Commissioner Adler moved to adopt the 2.4% COLA for all county elected officials. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion was held on the Clerk and Recorder's request for the additional compensation of 15% of the elected official's base, currently 5% of the elected official's base, for members of the Sheriff's Department who act as coroners, which would involve the sheriff, undersheriff and one deputy sheriff. She also discussed that the Forest Service agreement for law enforcement services is separate from deputy's salaries. Commissioner Slaughter discussed that one way to raise all sheriff's deputy's salaries is to raise the base pay for all elected officials. Clerk and Recorder Sarah Graham indicated that she is comfortable with the 2.4% increase for base salaries and the coroner's increase in compensation of 15%, which would equate to a \$6,587.00 increase for the coroners per year. Discussion was held on how much per hour the increase would amount to and it was estimated at \$3.15 per hour for the sheriff who is the coroner, \$2.99 for the undersheriff who is a deputy coroner, and \$2.85 for one sheriff's

deputy who is also a deputy coroner. County Attorney and Compensation Board member Blaine Bradshaw moved to raise all coroner (and deputy coroner) salaries by 15% and Terrie Wilson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Slaughter requested that the base salary of elected officials be calculated at several intervals for the actual cost to the county and how it would trickle down to the deputy officials; and another meeting be held. Clerk and Recorder Sarah Graham agreed to run some numbers to obtain the actual cost to the county. Carl Sundstrom noted that the sheriff's salary is limited by law and he inquired if there is a cap on the elected official's salaries. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that there is a not cap on his salary, but the base is set by statute but can be increased by the Compensation Board with consent of the County Commission. The Compensation Board meeting was recessed at 11:30 a.m. to be reconvened on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.

The Board considered a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for county employees other than elected officials. Commissioner Adler moved that all county employees, other than elected officials and Road Department union employees, receive a COLA of 2.4% for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Scott Dunkerson, due to an emergency, was unable to meet with the Board to discuss his department's 2019-2020 fiscal year budget requests.

Treasurer Vicki Harding met with the Board and presented financial updates for February, March and April, 2019. She presented for February 2019 a cash analysis, a checking account register, CD investments of \$529,775.45, STIP investments of \$8,289,472.74 and pledged securities held at Granite Mountain Bank in the amount of \$440,000.00; for March 2019 a cash analysis, checking account register, CD investments of \$529,775.45, STIP investments of \$8,181,841.82, pledged securities held at Glacier Bank in the amount of \$525,000.00, and pledged securities held at Granite Mountain Bank in the amount of \$440,00.00; for April 2019, a cash analysis, checking account register, CD investments of \$529,775.45, STIP investments of \$8,023,365.08, and pledged securities held at Granite Mountain Bank in the amount of \$440,000.00.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None.

In an administrative matter, at the request of Great West Engineering of Helena, Chairperson Bill Slaughter signed three copies of the "Joint Application For Proposed Work In Montana's Streams, Wetlands, Floodplains, And Other Water Bodies" for the Georgetown Lake Dam Face and Spillway Improvements Project. The application is for an SPA 124 permit with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and a Section 404 Permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This full project had been formally approved at a public meeting of the Board on June 4, 2019.

The Board reviewed draft minutes for the June 4, 2019 regular session. The minutes were approved on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Health Nurse Katie Muhly met with the Board and presented a written report on the activities of her office. She reviewed highlights of the report, including immunizations, Area V Agency on Aging, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, communicable and infectious diseases, opioid mini-grant, sheriff's department, HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) Grant, and the Public Health Department. She noted that she has ordered materials for community suicide prevention training and that one home health aide had resigned, which she intends to replace. Nurse Katie Muhly also notified the Board that her office's annual expenditures are well below the budgeted amount for fiscal year 2018-2019. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

The session adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

June 12, 2019

The Board met in special session at 6:00 p.m. at the Georgetown Lake Fire Hall on Fire Lane at Georgetown Lake for a joint meeting with the Towns of Philipsburg and Drummond with Chairperson Bill Slaughter and Commissioners Scott Adler and Charles Hinkle attending. Also attending from Granite County was Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe. Attending from the Town of Drummond were Mayor Gail Leeper and Town Attorney Jana McGill. Attending from the Town of Philipsburg were Mayor Daniel Reddish and town councilors Nicole Nelch, Scott Lyons, Derek Kuhl and Carl Sundstrom, and Town Attorney Robert Medof. Members of the public attending were Jacquie Venard with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper, Dustin Muhly and Deborah Peters with the Philipsburg Area Library District Board, Fred Bjorklund, Elena Gagliano and Dick Motta.

Commission Chairperson Bill Slaughter called the meeting to order and self-introductions were made. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2019 Joint Session, including a minor change suggested by Carl Sundstrom. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion carried.

Economic Development: Mayor Leeper reported that the DEQ is taking comments on the proposed limestone mine near Drummond. The Frosty Freeze and buildings in that area have been torn down for make way for new development. Cleanup is underway in Drummond, including junk vehicle enforcement. Commissioner Hinkle inquired if Drummond smells any better since the carcass composting site has been closed. Mayor Leeper indicated that yes, it does, as composting site is drying out. Drummond smelling better is economic development. Bill Slaughter reported that an alternate site for carcass composting is being investigated and the county will assist in setting up a new site, but does not want to be involved in the site operation. The alternate site is about 8 miles from the existing site and the DEQ has looked at it with the private property owner and the

Commission. No financial assistance was ever received from the Fish and Game, although the site took FWP's animals, according to Commissioner Adler.

Granite County Update

Flint Creek Dam Improvements: Commissioner Slaughter reported that a construction project is scheduled for this summer for work on the dam fascia and spillway; a \$125,000 grant received from DNRC for the project; no dewatering required as construction will be done during low water. FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) continues to require additional regulations which is putting the Flint Creek Project Fund in jeopardy; just over \$100,000 remaining in fund after this project; the Montana Congressional Delegation (with copies to FERC) has been notified of the onerous regulations (like a \$40,000 flood study) by letter; county working on renegotiation of the lease with Flint Creek Hydro LLC aka Hydrodynamics (owner of the power plant); the annual FERC inspection is scheduled for late August this year. Dick Motta inquired about the annual revenue from power production and it was estimated at about \$80,000; he commented that the law says the lease cannot cost the county money. Commissioner Slaughter noted that Dick Motta has been correct in saying for years that the FERC regulations will cost more than the revenue.

Request Report on County Funding For Drummond Water Tower: Mayor Leeper reported that the water shut-off issue was resolved and the engineer needs one final detail for construction on relining of the tower to start June 18th. Drummond has received the county funds.

Request Report on County Funding For Philipsburg Water Line: Mayor Reddish reported that an engineer has been to the site and has an idea on how to proceed; it is on Tuesday's agenda for the town council; will have preliminary costs at that time, followed by a survey and then the design phase.

Town of Drummond Update

Solid Waste Charges: Mayor Leeper commented that solid waste charges need to be updated; there are discrepancies on how many units are charged; for instance The Ranch on Rock Creek is charged 9 units (dumped by Robinson two times a week) and Drummond Schools are charged 14 units (dumped by Robinson once a week).

Re-Establishing Solid Waste Advisory Board: Mayor Leeper suggested that the board be re-established to keep the solid waste fees updated; also, need list from Robinson (private garbage hauler) on who he is dumping every time he dumps. Commissioner Slaughter agreed that an accounting is needed from Robinson. Commissioner Adler noted that the Solid Waste Advisory Board was disbanded because it became unprofessional. Mayor Reddish suggested written agreement between Robinson and the county requiring a list. Commissioner Slaughter noted that Robinson had informed the Commission that he would be out of business if he was required to have scales in his trucks. Commissioner Adler noted the tipping fees from Republic Services in Missoula are likely to go up. Commissioner Slaughter agreed to consider the advisory board; it would also be a place for people to appeal their charges.

Town of Philipsburg Update

Library Transition: Dustin Muhly, chairman of the Philipsburg Area Library District Board, reported the library plans to expand into the old fire department portion of the

Philipsburg Town Hall; plans are available at the library; the library has a budget from the mill levy passed by the voters; expansion will include rest rooms open to the public and accessible from the exterior of the building, which will be good for tourists; Drummond library has been a great help in the transition process; and construction is planned for next summer.

Law Enforcement Contract: Mayor Reddish reported that the contract has been discussed with the town council; Town Attorney Robert Medof reported that he and County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw have a good working draft; Commissioner Slaughter reported that the county Compensation Board will meet next week to further consider elected officials and deputy salaries; he noted that small counties tend to train law enforcement officers and then they move on; Mayor Leeper noted that the Drummond Town Council is getting a monthly written sheriff's report, which they appreciate; Mayor Reddish noted that Philipsburg also gets a written monthly report, which is appreciated. Elena Gagliano inquired how many tickets are written under town ordinances (Drummond had zero, Philipsburg had one); she commented that towns under a certain population can't have law enforcement because town citizens are getting double taxed; Darby has a town marshal; Philipsburg could pay for its own marshal with the \$80,000 for the sheriff's contract, according to Gagliano. Mayor Reddish indicated that he will call Darby to inquire about that arrangement for a town marshal. Commissioner Slaughter stated that it is expensive to maintain training requirements, vehicles and equipment for law enforcement officers and the law enforcement contract provides for extra hours for Drummond and for Philipsburg. Elena Gagliano commented that Georgetown Lake, Maxville and Hall don't pay extra for law enforcement. Commissioner Slaughter responded that those places don't have a local government.

Public Comment

Dick Motta indicated that towns can apply directly to the Department of Interior, as subdivisions of the county, to receive their own PILT (Payments In Lieu of Taxes) funds without going through the county. Carl Sundstrom inquired about the code that allows for that and Dick Motta said that he did not recall the code, but it is likely in the budgeting section. Also, Dick Motta noted that the fire hall where this meeting is being held is in Deer Lodge County and he said that Granite County meetings should be held in Granite County. Elena Gagliano noted that she puts the meetings she attends on YouTube. She suggested that Dan Clark from MSU, who does board training, should be retained to train all three entities and all county boards so they know what they can and cannot do. Also, she and Dick Motta said notice of the special meeting should be published in the newspaper.

Nest Joint Meeting

Plans call for it to be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bearmouth Chalet, if it's available.

Adjourn

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion carried.