

GRANITE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Public Monthly Meeting

Courthouse Courtroom

220 N. Sansome Street, Philipsburg

June 6, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Granite County Planning Board Members: A.J. Michnevich President, Tom Rue and John Spaeth

Planning Board Staff: Linda Bouck, Granite County Planning Director

Guests: Shirley Beck, Ken Burd, Stephanie Burd, Elena Gagliano, Heidi Hinkle, Steve Immenschuh, Patti Kanduch, Ed Lord, Zane Murfitt, Paivi Spoon, Carl Sundstrom

I: Call to Order

President A.J. Michnevich called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Board and Staff introduced themselves. It was noted the Board did not have a quorum. Due to this the Board was unable to take official action on any of the agenda items.

II: Pledge of Allegiance

III. A. Growth Policy –Public Hearing for Amendments to Town of Philipsburg Section of the Growth Policy

A.J. Michnevich opened the public hearing for the Town of Philipsburg Section of the Growth Policy. He noted no changes have been made to the proposal since the last meeting. He apologized for the Board not having a quorum again, but stated the Board would take comments on the proposed Growth Policy changes to the Town of Philipsburg section.

Ken Burd asked how the proposed changes came about into the current document. Planning Director Linda Bouck explained the Town of Philipsburg in the 2012 Growth Policy was pulled out into a separate addendum. The Towns and County are required to look at the Growth Policy every 5 years for updates. The Planning Board reviewed the County section in 2018 and no one from the public came forward to request amendments. The Board noted they would update the document in 2020 after the census but if changes were requested before this time they would be willing to reopen the Growth Policy. The Town of Philipsburg came forward in February 2019 asking for changes to the Town of Philipsburg section of the Growth Policy. At that time the Town Council presented amendments to the document to the Planning Board. The Planning Board has been, in accordance with State law, reviewing the document and will send a recommendation to the Town of Philipsburg. Ken Burd stated he would like to see a joint meeting with

the Town of Philipsburg Council and the Planning Board. It was noted at this time in the process the attorneys from MACo did not recommend joint meetings with the Planning Board and the governing bodies.

Ken Burd stated at the time the (Finn Addition) subdivision was reviewed concerns were raised about adequate water and sewer. It's his understanding the subdivision is now on hold because of the lagoon issues. Steve Immenschuh agreed the subdivision has run into problems with the lagoons not being able to handle the increased volume. Ken Burd said the Growth Policy identifies the problems but doesn't say how the funding will be raised to fix the identified problems. He would like to see that portion of the document a Capital Improvement Plan showing the funding for fixing some of these issues. John Spaeth noted the Planning Board has no authority over sewer and water problems in the town. Tom Rue added Ken Burd might want to put these points before the Town of Philipsburg Council. John Spaeth asked if the subdivision (Finn Addition) was what started these changes to the Town section of the Growth Policy. Town Councilman Carl Sundstrom said it was not the subdivision. The Town had been working on proposed Growth Policy changes prior to the subdivision. He also added that the Town is trying to work with Montana Department of Environmental Quality on the existing Town of Philipsburg water and sewer problems.

Elena Gagliano noted the Growth Policy is a vision for the municipalities and the county. The county and towns currently have one document that they coordinate on and one Planning Board with representatives from the towns and county. She said it is up to the jurisdictions to come up with recommended changes for their portions of the Growth Policy. She did questions why since the Town of Philipsburg's sewer lagoon was in the county why the county wasn't involved in discussions about the lagoon.

Shirley Beck asked if it was the Town of Philipsburg Council who made the recommended changes. Bouck noted it was the Town of Philipsburg Council who made the proposed changes. It was also noted that the County and Town of Drummond will also adopt the Town of Philipsburg changes but only after the Town of Philipsburg has adopted them. The County and Towns respect each other's right to develop their sections of the Growth Policy. The County will not adopt until after the Town of Philipsburg does.

Stephanie Burd asked if the Planning Board was just organizing the document. The Planning Board noted their job is to gather comments on the proposed changes, make any additional recommendations based on the comments heard and submit them to the Town of Philipsburg Council with a final recommendation. The Town of Philipsburg will receive copies of the minutes from the public hearings. It was also noted the process for amending the Growth Policy is set out in State law and they are following that process.

Paivi Spoon asked what is the current status of the Capital Improvement Plan. Town of Philipsburg Councilman Carl Sundstrom stated the Town Council is working on the Capital Improvement Plan and is hoping to finalize the Growth Policy prior to finishing the Capital Improvement Plan.

Tom Rue asked if anyone from the public had anything specific to the Growth Policy document.

Ed Lord asked if the Growth Policy had zoning language within the document. Bouck stated it does have language within the document that would allow the Town of Philipsburg to begin discussions about potentially zoning. The Growth Policy by itself cannot implement zoning, but in order to do zoning it must be stated within the Growth Policy. Ed Lord stated he felt the public should be wary of zoning.

There being no further comments, President Michnevich tabled the public hearing until the next meeting. As no quorum was in attendance official action could not be taken on this topic. The public hearing will be resumed on June 27, 2019.

III. B. – Growth Policy –Discussion of Addition of Appendix G: Granite County to Invoke Coordination Status to Influence Federal and State Land Use

Planning Director Linda Bouck stated the proposed section of the Growth Policy as recommended by the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) was reformatted to fit better into the Growth Policy. As requested by the Board, representatives for FMAC were present to explain the requested addition.

Patti Kanduch, Chairwoman for FMAC introduced herself and members of the FMAC present Heidi Hinkle and Elena Gagliano. She stated the Commissioners formed the FMAC Board to gather information about the ability to invoke coordination status. Coordination status allows the elected county officials to sit down with the federal agencies, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, etc., and have a voice in how these agencies manage federal lands within the county. John Spaeth noted the power to invoke coordination has been there for a long time. Patti Kanduch said although the ability to invoke coordination status is part of the federal law the federal agencies are reluctant at times to initiate the discussions with the local governments and often do not talk with county officials. By placing a section within the Growth Policy that invokes coordination it allows the local officials to initiate the discussions with federal agencies on land management issues and have an equal voice at the table on issues. This then requires the federal agencies to take into consideration the desires of the local government. She noted the forest service for many years has had a let it burn policy with forest fires. This policy has a significant impact on the community, tourism, health, etc. The Beaverhead Forest is one of the unhealthiest forest in the west currently because the federal agencies have not been managing it well. Adding this section to the Growth Policy will help the local officials to invoke coordination more easily.

Elena Gagliano asked what is the purpose of FMAC. Patti Kanduch replied the purpose of the Board is to educate, gather information, and advise the County Commissioners on forest issues.

There being no further comments, President Michnevich tabled this agenda item until the next meeting. As no quorum was in attendance official action could not be taken on this topic. The Board will look to set a public hearing date at the June 27, 2019.

IV. Development of County Road List – Drummond Area - Including Areas North and West of Drummond

The Board held a work session on developing a County Road List. The Board worked on classifying roads in the Drummond area as well as areas north and west of Drummond, in the following townships and ranges:

T11N R12W; T11N R13W; T11N R14W; T11N R15W; T11N R16W; T12N R13W; T12N R14W; T12N R15W. Reclassifications of some of the roads were made.

As no quorum was present, the Board asked that this item be pushed to the next meeting.

VI. Minutes – April 4, 2019

The Board was unable to act on the minutes of April 4, 2019, due to the lack of a quorum.

The Board asked that the Minutes for April 4, 2019, be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Board was unable to act on the minutes of May 2, 2019, due to the lack of a quorum.

The Board asked that the Minutes for May 2, 2019, be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Miscellaneous

The Planning Board asked that a letter be sent to the Board of Commissioners notifying them that both Susan Hale representing Georgetown Lake and Jim Christensen representing Upper Flint Creek have missed numerous meetings in a row. The Board is grateful for their service, but as the Board is having a difficult time getting a quorum they would like to request the Board of Commissioners advertise for these two positions. The Board would ask the Commission to please try and get representation from Georgetown Lake and Upper Flint Creek if possible.

The Board moved the next meeting up from July 4th to June 27th to try and accommodate the needs of those agenda items that have been waiting for the past several months.

VII. Adjourn

John Spaeth requested to adjourn the meeting. A.J. Michnevich seconded the motion. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes approved on June 27, 2019

A.J. Michnevich