

**June 4, 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. He is having gravel from the Middle Fork Gravel Pit, which has not been developed, tested through Great West Engineering. Commissioner Hinkle moved that it is the Board's intention to use the \$43,853.53 of BaRSAA (Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Program) HB 473 Fuel Tax Allocation to develop the Middle Fork Gravel Pit. Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Cary Hogue met with the group and explained that part of her paved driveway, within the county right of way, on Airport Road was broken off by the county's motor grader. Paul Alt stated that while not the county's legal responsibility, the county would be a good neighbor and it would be repaired with cold patch material. Commissioner Hinkle reported that a cattle guard on the Middle Fork Road is getting filled with road material and should be cleaned out. Paul Alt agreed to clean out the cattle guard. The culverts on the Poison Patch Road was discussed and Paul Alt suggested that a large squash culvert be installed there. The Board spoke with County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and requested that he draft a letter notice for their signatures that will be published in the Philipsburg Mail newspaper stating that private equipment operation is not allowed to perform maintenance of any kind on county roads without express written permission of the Board. Commissioner Adler moved to hire Richard Torre, the only applicant, as a part-time fill-in container site attendant at the solid waste container sites. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.**

**Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,429.39 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 1.32 inches below full pool with an estimated 41.7 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 at 42.9 cfs. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended. The Board spoke with Paul Tallon with Flint Creek Hydro to discuss whether or not the power plant is operating at maximum capacity. Paul Tallon stated he was going to talk with Roger Kirk about this, and get back to the Board.**

**Commissioner Slaughter reported on the Montana Association of Counties district meeting which he attended yesterday in Deer Lodge. He reviewed a list of recently passed state legislation affecting counties. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.**

Commissioner Adler reported that he participated in the county school transportation meeting yesterday. He noted that nothing much has changed regarding school bus routes. Medical issues with students were discussed. A question arose as to whether medical issues on buses are the applicable school or county's legal and financial responsibility. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that he would research the issues.

Engineer Jeremiah Theys with Great West Engineering of Helena met with the Board for design confirmation for the Flint Creek Dam Face and Spillway Repair Project that is required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended. Jeremiah Theys reported that the county had received a \$125,000.00 DNRC Renewable Resource Grant to assist with the project and the county will contract with DNRC for use of those funds after July 1, 2019. He estimated the construction cost of the project at \$240,000.00. Jeremiah Theys indicated that the dam health is very good once these issues are taken care of. The Board expressed concern that the requirements of the FERC are costing more than the revenue received by the county on the project. The Flint Creek Project Fund, the fund for repairs at the dam, will soon be depleted due to the FERC's strict regulations. The Flint Creek Project Fund cash balance at this time is \$284,393.91, but this will soon be depleted with contemplated repairs and other work that is required. The Board discussed the possibility of negotiating to restructure the contract with Flint Creek Hydro LLC. Jeremiah Theys noted that the FERC continues to add additional requirements since the contract with Flint Creek Hydro was originally negotiated. The Board agreed to continue with the necessary required safety items at this time. Jeremiah Theys indicated that the construction contract will be awarded to formal, competitive bidding laws and that construction will be scheduled to begin mid-August after the plans are submitted to the FERC for its required 60-day review. Jeremiah Theys presented draft plans and specifications for the Flint Creek Dam Improvements for the Board's review. He noted that the original concrete has been tested and it is solid and can be tied into for the dam face work. Commissioner Hinkle moved to proceed with the Flint Creek Dam Improvements Project for Dam Face and Spillway Repairs. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried. The Board agreed to make an appointment to discuss the restructuring of the Flint Creek Hydro Agreement due to the project operating at a loss for several years. On another subject, Jeremiah Theys took three buckets of sample gravel from the Middle Fork Gravel Pit to have it analyzed for use as road surface material.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of Granite County Hospital District, was not able to meet with the Board but sent information to the Board including an Administrator's Report dated May 28, 2019, Utilization Report, Revenue Analysis, Financial Balance Sheet and a Profit and Loss Statement. The Board reviewed the information.

Sam Donahue, Chairperson of Granite County Airport Board, met with the Board, gave a report and requested permission to resolve a hangar issue at Riddick Field. He reported that Vince Reece (Hangar Space #4) and Mike Foley (Hangar Space #5) will swap hangars

and Vince Reece will build a new hangar (same style as his existing large red hangar) on the site of the dilapidated hangar (Hangar Space #5), with the Commission's approval. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the construction of the new hangar and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion was held on the process for the selection of an engineering firm for runway resurfacing at Riddick Field. Discussion was held on the repair of broken runway lights at Riddick Field, which TEC The Electrical Connections has begun, and the Board agreed that the repairs should be continued.

The Board considered Change Order No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Ace Roofing of Wilsall, Montana to include new shingle roofing on the old ambulance garage east of the courthouse. Commissioner Slaughter moved to advertise the project for two weeks in the Flint Creek Courier, an online news site. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw agreed to draft the advertisement and send it to the *Flint Creek Courier* for publication from the present to June 20, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

The Board reviewed draft minutes for the May 28, 2019 regular session. The minutes were approved with a minor change on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

The session adjourned at 2:55 p.m.