

**July 16, 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/Solid Waste Superintendent Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. The report included that cold patching will finish soon at Rock Creek, most carcass composting has been removed from the Drummond solid waste container site (except that which is still cooking), and the crew is putting magnesium chloride on Rock Creek Road. Discussion was held on the use of a gravel pit at the Lost Sapphire Ranch for use on the Forest Service Road Project. Commissioner Hinkle stated that a gravel pit is not allowed under the Lost Sapphire Ranch covenants. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw indicated that it is up to the homeowners' association to privately enforce the subdivision covenants. Paul Alt reported that Richard Komberec is planning to take a bad corner out on Bear Gulch Road. The Board agreed to schedule a site visit to look at the road.**

**The Board considered agreements to receive asphalt millings from a Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Project on I-90 East and West. The county would receive approximately 23,315 cubic yards of millings from the West project and approximately 28,266 cubic yards from the East project. MDT will mill, haul and stockpile the material. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the two agreements and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried. Paul Alt noted that Kennecott Exploration had paid \$925.00 for a damaged cattle guard on Gold Coin Road. Discussion was held on Great West Engineering's report on gravel tests on gravel samples from the Middle Fork Gravel Pit site.**

**The Board discussed the purchase of sand and gravel for the Hall Road Department. It was reported that Bob Weaver is getting out of the crushed gravel business. The costs for such sand and gravel will be well under \$80,000, but the County's Procurement Policy discusses obtaining 3 quotes in this case so the Board agreed to publish a notice to bid in the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper for one week for 1,500 yards of gravel and 1,000 yards of sand, both delivered to the Granite County Road Department Shop at Hall on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw agreed to draft the bid notice to be published in the newspaper.**

**Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,429.60 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 1.2 inches above full pool with an estimated 44.7 cfs through the power plant and an estimated 44.7 cfs over the weir below the power plant. Commissioner Adler moved to make no adjustment in the outflow. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion**

carried. The Board noted that there was a magnitude 4 earthquake at Belgrade, Montana on 7-13-2019.

Kayla Sanders, Executive Director of the Healthy Granite County Network, and Dr. Richard Molteni of Philipsburg met with the Board and provided an update on the project. Kayla Sanders gave an informational presentation which included that a community health needs assessment had been conducted and several focus groups had been held; the purpose of the project is to bring behavioral health resources to the residents of the county through a health services coordinator, which will be a different person than the executive director, who will have information on services available within the county and through telemedicine services. Kayla Sanders noted the high suicide rate in Montana and in Granite County, and she emphasized that suicide prevention will be a high priority for the network. The Board inquired if this will be a partnership with the activities of county Public Health Nurse Katie Muhly and Kayla Sanders responded that Katie Muhly has been an active participant in the process. Dr. Molteni noted that the Granite County population is an older population which nationally needs mental health services, often due to isolation.

The Board reviewed county claims for June 2019. Commissioner Adler recused himself from voting on a claim for Adler Towing. The claims for June 2019 were approved on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Richard “Rick” Robinson with Granite Disposal met with the Board to continue discussion on solid waste. The Board noted that a discussion had been held recently with Republic Services of Missoula which indicated that the size of the containers used at homes and businesses closely corresponds to the amount of garbage dumped. Richard Robinson noted that he has obtained a list of the units the county charges individuals and businesses. He noted that one business is constantly building housing units and other buildings, and is charged only 8 units. Richard Robinson indicated that utilizing the size of the container used is a fair way for the county to re-evaluate the units charged by the county. He noted that the big users are the dumpster users and that most businesses in the county are his customers. Treasurer Vicki Harding suggested concentrating on the business users and that any changes should be made by about September to be on the 2019 tax notices. Commissioner Adler moved to have Richard Robinson provide a detailed report on container sizes for businesses and how often they are dumped, which will be compared to the current solid waste unit assessments, and changes will be made in the units charged by September 1, 2019. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried. Richard Robinson agreed to provide the information. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

The Board held the second reading of Resolution 2019-17 “A Granite County Resolution Authorizing Certain County Personnel To Purchase State Surplus Property.” The purpose of the Resolution is the add Commissioner Charles L. Hinkle, Public Health Nurse Katie Muhly and Public Health Clerk/Assistant Jackie Bolster to the list of authorized personnel.

Commissioner Adler moved to adopt Resolution 2019-17 and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the draft Elderly Care Companion Position Description for the Public Health Department. This position description replaces that of the Home Health Aide position as the duties have changed. The change was recommended by county Public Health Nurse Katie Muhly, who also recommended that the pay grade remain the same. The Board agreed to approve the position description and set the pay grade on the county's pay matrix at a Grade 6, currently \$10.69/hour. The action was taken on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the draft Part-Time Clerk Position Description for the Clerk and Recorder's Office. The Board agreed to approve the position description and set the pay grade on the county's pay matrix at a Grade 8, currently \$14.22/hour. The action was taken on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Philipsburg Mayor Daniel Reddish and Town Attorney Robert Medof met with the Board to discuss the draft proposed Law Enforcement Agreement between the town and the county. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended. Town Attorney Medof presented copies of an undated letter addressed to County Attorney Bradshaw which indicated that the \$2,300.00 proposed increase in the draft agreement was not acceptable to the Philipsburg Town Council, but the customary 2% annual increase was acceptable to the council. Discussion was held regarding the increase that the county Compensation Board had voted to give to county elected officials and deputies, which accounted for the proposed \$2,300.00 increase in the draft agreement. Also, that one purpose of the wage increase was to encourage a sheriff's deputy to live in Philipsburg. Mayor Reddish said he had explained that to the town council, but the town council was not agreeable. Discussion was also held regarding the four-year term of the proposed agreement. Mayor Reddish indicated that the town council does like the current agreement. The Board attempted to contact Sheriff Scott Dunkerson for his comment, but he was unavailable. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the agreement as proposed by the Town of Philipsburg, without the \$2,300.00 additional fee, and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. During Board discussion, Commissioner Slaughter stated that if he is still a Commissioner that the next agreement will contain the increase and there will not be any room for negotiation. There was no public comment. The motion carried with Commissioners Slaughter and Hinkle voting in favor of the motion and Commissioner Adler opposing the motion. Mayor Reddish also presented copies of a draft Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Philipsburg and the Philipsburg Cemetery District. Town Attorney Medof stated that the agreement put into writing things that had been verbally understood over many years. The Board agreed to postpone a decision on the agreement until it is approved by the town and the cemetery board.

**Paul O’Leary and Vince Reece, with the Granite County Airport Board, met with the Board to give a report on the airport improvements of asphalt resurfacing scheduled for Riddick Field at Philipsburg. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended. Discussion was held on a recent state legislative change regarding airport funding. Paul O’Leary reported that he was previously on the Stevensville Airport Board for twenty years and went through several major construction projects there. He also reported that the FAA will fund 90% of airport improvement projects, the Montana Aeronautics Board will fund 5% and local funding is 5%. Vince Reece reported that when Riddick Field moves as unclassified in the NPIAS (National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems) to the classified category that Riddick Field may qualify for \$150,000.00 annually, beginning in 2021, for airport maintenance. Paul O’Leary presented a document that states that the Riddick Field improvements resurfacing project is scheduled to occur in 2021 at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million. Discussion was held on the airport budget, the mill levy last fiscal year of .2 mills for the airport and on the county match of 5% of the \$1.2 million project cost. Paul O’Leary noted that he will be requesting, in the next few months, that a Request For Qualifications for a project engineer (an FAA requirement) be advertised by the Commission. County Attorney Bradshaw agreed to assist in working on the documents for the Request for Qualifications. Vince Reece reported that maintenance is continuing on Riddick Field until the field resurfacing project occurs. On another subject, Vince Reece inquired about when the county will have building inspectors. The Board responded that building inspection is currently an individual responsibility and not the local government’s responsibility.**

**Public Comment: Linda Bouck met with the Board to give an update on the new road to the back side of Discovery Ski Area from Rumsey Road. She presented a copy of the Granite County Encroachment Permit granted by the county in 2015 to Discovery Ski Area and she noted that there is a current road maintenance agreement in place with Discovery. Ciche Pitcher with Discovery Ski Area met with the Board by speaker telephone and gave an update that the intersection with Rumsey Road and road surfacing will be completed within a week. He reported that when a section of road is relocated that the old road will be reclaimed. He noted that there will be a stop sign and a “No Outlet” sign on Rumsey Road at the intersection, and that road name signs will also be installed. Ciche Pitcher noted that the new road will be open to the public in the summer and closed at times to the public in the winter to keep snowmobiles away from the ski area as a safety measure. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the Rumsey Road right-of-way is at least 60 feet wide in response to Ciche Pitcher’s request to place a sign on Rumsey Road near Montana Highway 1 indicating when the new road is open to skiing and mountain biking at Discovery. Linda Bouck noted that Discovery has purchased a traffic counter for an accurate count of traffic on the road.**

**Correspondence: None.**

The Board reviewed draft minutes for July 9, 2019. The minutes were approved as presented on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Dick Motta asked for a copy of the draft minutes and the Board declined the request. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that draft minutes are not public documents.

Roger Kirk with Flint Creek Hydroelectric LLC failed to keep his scheduled appointment on the agenda because his attorney was unavailable. The meeting will be rescheduled. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper, Dick Motta and Elena Gagliano attended. Scott Sylvester inquired why the county is required to maintain the dam and County Attorney Bradshaw responded that Flint Creek Hydro is responsible for its improvements (the power plant and associated improvements) and the county is responsible for the Flint Creek Dam, which it owns. Commissioner Slaughter indicated that the county is looking for alternatives for funding to support the Flint Creek Dam Fund, which is rapidly being depleted due to FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) requirements. Elena Gagliano requested a copy of receipts from Flint Creek Hydroelectric LLC to the county and she was given a copy. Elena Gagliano also requested a copy of the current Agreement between the County and Flint Creek Hydro, and the County Attorney said he would send her one. The Board agreed to write a letter to Flint Creek Hydroelectric LLC requesting a meeting in the near future. Discussion was held on the agreement between Flint Creek Hydroelectric and Granite County dated May 24, 2011.

The session adjourned at 3:10 p.m.