

**July 2, 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 was not able to meet with the Board. Tim Luthje met with the Board and stated that the award of the excavator work for the Forest Service Road Project was not advertised to the public and he is interested in doing the work. He said that he did notice that the advertisement for the trucks has been published. He suggested that all the bids for excavator work should be thrown out and the process started over. He noted that he has worked in the public sector for a long time and he has seen all bids thrown out at times. Tim Luthje said that he would do excavator work for the same amount as the low bidder. Commissioner Adler said that he was under the impression in talking with Paul Alt that Tim Luthje was given notice of the excavation work by the county, but he needed to double check that fact. Commissioner Hinkle indicated that the way the bidding was handled on the excavator bids was irregular and it should have been advertised for bid. Also, he requested that Paul Alt get permission from the Commission before outside contractor trucks are hired. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated his opinion that the county currently has contracts with the excavator contractors which must be honored. Commissioner Hinkle also reported that the Lost Sapphire Homeowners' Association is petitioning its members to amend the association bylaws to allow the development of a rock quarry. Commissioner Slaughter reported that the new Cat 160 motor grader has been delivered to Philipsburg. Also, he reported that there is a savings of money if a plow is bought and shipped at the same time as the new sander is shipped. The Board contacted Chad Pearson at the Montana Department of Transportation by speaker telephone regarding the blocked road at Bearmouth, due to a rock slide, which is causing increased maintenance on a county road being used as a detour. He reported that the department is having a geotechnical survey done before completely stabilizing the slope, but plans to have at least one lane of traffic open soon. Chad Pearson indicated that he will bring the county's request for assistance on maintenance of the county road forward to his supervisor. Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper inquired about any changes in solid waste charges which must be done by August. The Board responded that a letter has been written to Richard Robinson of Granite Disposal to obtain a list of his customers. Mayor Leeper explained that there is a big difference among how businesses are charged by the county for solid waste. She indicated that it is unfair to all the people of Granite County. Mayor Leeper inquired if an outside garbage disposal business can be made to meet certain guidelines and County Attorney Bradshaw indicated that the business can be made to comply with county policies. Richard Robinson with Granite Disposal contacted the Board by speaker telephone and he indicated that he has the list of customers on his desk and he will get it to the Board soon. Mayor Leeper inquired who is going to make the revisions. The Board indicated that Paul Alt, Treasurer Vicki Harding and Lynn Anderson would be involved. Treasurer Vicki Harding met with**

the Board to discuss the matter and she recommended that the charges for businesses be looked at closely. The Board noted the receipt, later in the day, of the list of customers from Richard Robinson of Granite Disposal.

Dustin Muhly, the county's independently contracted Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coordinator, did not meet with the Board as scheduled. The meeting will be rescheduled. Scott Sylvester, with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper met with the Board and inquired about the PHEP coordinator duties. Commissioner Slaughter responded with a list of the coordinator's duties.

The Board reviewed the written recommendation dated June 27, 2019, of Great West Engineering of Helena for the bid award for the Flint Creek Dam Improvements, Dam Face and Spillway Repair Project. The engineering firm submitted a certified bid tabulation of the bids submitted and opened on June 25, 2019, a recommendation of the bid award to Battle Ridge Builders LLC of Belgrade in the amount of \$172,800.00, and a Notice of Award to be signed by the Board. Commissioner Adler moved to accept the engineer's recommendation and to sign the Notice of Award to Battle Ridge Builders LLC. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2019-16 "A Granite County Resolution Creating Granite County's Interdisciplinary Child Information And School Safety Team." County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw reported that there have been regular team meetings at the Philipsburg schools and at the Drummond schools for many years and the purpose of the confidential meetings is for law enforcement, schools and the county attorney to share information. He noted that this Resolution is required by a new statute in the Montana Code Annotated. There was no public comment on the Resolution. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,429.57 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately .84 inches above full pool with an estimated 44.1 cfs through the power plant and an estimated 44.1 cfs over the weir below the power plant. Commissioner Hinkle moved to make no adjustment in the outflow. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of the Granite County Hospital District, met with the Board and submitted the monthly financial update. She presented a financial report dated 7-2-2019 indicating projected cash available of a negative (\$92,543), projected deposits of \$566,000, accounts payable of \$150,000, and projected cash reserves of \$323,475 (28 days of operation). She also presented a utilization report, a revenue analysis, an accounts receivable aging report, and an administrator's report dated June 25, 2019. She highlighted life enrichment and the CMS midyear rate review, which is being appealed. She noted that construction on the CT scanner is scheduled to start July 8, 2019, which will involve the moving of a major water line at a cost of approximately \$10,000. Commissioner

Slaughter excused himself from the session at 11:45 a.m. Commissioner Adler was selected as temporary chairperson. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the moving of the water line at the Granite County Medical Center and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried. Maria Stoppler reported that she has provided Reflex Protect, similar to pepper spray, to all employees for personal protection in case of an emergency. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Board considered a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for the county Immunization Program in the amount of \$4,218.00. Public Health Nurse Katie Muhly had recommended that the Board enter into the contract. Commissioner Hinkle moved to enter into the contract and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board considered the contract with Area V Agency on Aging for public health services in the amount of \$25,040.00. Public Health Nurse Katie Muhly had recommended that the Board enter into the contract. Commissioner Hinkle moved to enter into the contract and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the two-year Collective Bargaining Agreement as proposed by IUOE Local 400 Granite County Road Unit. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended and reviewed the changes from the previous agreement. The Board agreed to enter into the proposed two-year agreement between the union and Granite County on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Deborah Frandsen, U.S. Senator Jon Tester's Regional Field Director, met with the Board for general discussion and to inquire if the Board needed anything for the upcoming forest fire season. She noted that the letter to the congressional delegation regarding onerous FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) regulations has been forwarded to the senator's staff member in charge of energy, Henry Ring, in Washington, D.C. The Board agreed to put a telephone conference call with Henry Ring on the Board's agenda next week.

**Correspondence:** None.

The Board considered draft minutes for the meeting of June 18 and 25, 2019. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the minutes of June 18, 2019, with minor changes. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the minutes of June 21 and 25, 2019. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Health Nurse Katie Muhly met with the Board by speaker telephone to discuss a Home Health Aide vacancy. The Board agreed that the aide vacancy should be advertised in the local newspaper and filled. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw agreed to review the advertisement before it is placed in the local newspaper. Katie Muhly noted that she is the Lead Local Health Official with the DPHHS (Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services) in case of emergency and, as she is sometimes out of cell service, Dr. William Reiter and Jackie Bolster are also on the call list.**

**The session adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**