

July 30, 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 he met with Ciche Pitcher of Discovery Ski Area on the Rumsey Road and he suggested that three stop signs and three “stop ahead” signs be installed at the intersection with the new road to Discovery. Also, more road patch oil will be ordered and he will get a price on renting a mower. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended and he requested that Scenic Lane at Georgetown Lake be measured as it may be in violation of zoning regulations. The Board agreed to confer with Planning Director Linda Bouck regarding the matter.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,429.34 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender’s report. The lake is approximately 1.92 inches below full pool with an estimated 35.4 cfs through the power plant and an estimated 35.4 cfs over the weir below the power plant. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, Brad Liermann with FWP, Chuck Stokke and Andrew McFarland attended. Jonathan Weaver, engineer with Great West Engineering of Helena, participated by speaker telephone. Jonathan Weaver noted that the dam construction is scheduled to begin the middle of August and be completed within 50 days. He has spoken with the contractor and the contractor planned on the water being at or below the spillway, and the contractor will have some type of dewatering plan (cofferdam) for the project. The Board noted that there is a requirement that the agencies (MT Fish Wildlife & Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and the U.S. Forest Service) be notified and consent to a temporary modification to the FERC order on licensure. Brad Liermann inquired if water would be pumped from the cofferdam and the response was that it would be pumped out. Comments: Brad Liermann indicated that 35 cfs is too much water to be released right now and he has spoken with Dave Amman of DNRC regarding projected lake levels. Mr. Liermann noted that inflows are at 48% of normal currently. Commissioner Slaughter noted that it is unusual that the lake is at near full pool at the first of August, and that the Commission had been doing a very good job administering the dam. Brad Liermann recommended that 30 cfs be released at this time and review it later in the season when ranchers need the water for irrigation. Chuck Stokke noted that 30 cfs is currently being released from Silver Lake for 30 days, in an attempt to water the Clark Fork River. Commissioner Slaughter noted that water is also being released from East Fork Reservoir, which is in good condition. Commissioner Hinkle moved to reduce the outflow from Georgetown Lake to 30 cfs for one week and to analyze the lake level at the end of the week. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. As discussion, Brad Liermann noted that Dave Amman plans do a full assessment of Georgetown Lake water levels in early August. The motion carried unanimously. The Board notified Flint Creek Hydroelectric to make the reduction in outflow. Chuck Stokke inquired about the nature

of the work planned on the dam this summer. Commissioner Slaughter explained that work is planned on the upstream concrete face of the dam and on the upstream spillway slab. Chuck Stokke inquired about the capacity of the new valves and whether there is a procedure to test the valves periodically. Jonathan Weaver indicated that he would get that information to County Attorney Bradshaw, who will distribute it. Brad Liermann expressed appreciation to the Board for the continued maintenance and updating of the dam structure.

Brad Liermann, for informational purposes only, discussed Harvey Creek with the Board and the cost/ benefit of a pivot sprinkler system that was installed to conserve water.

Applications for the Granite County Planning Board were scheduled to be considered and the Board noted that no additional applications have been received, although the two positions had been advertised for two additional weeks. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that Planning Board members must be county residents. Board members agreed to try to recruit people who may be interested in the two open positions on the Planning Board; one representing the Upper Flint Creek Area and one representing the Georgetown Lake Area.

The Board made the following appointments of positions, rather than of individuals, to the two sections of the Granite County Child Safety Team, as now required by the Montana legislature:

Philipsburg Section:

**Philipsburg Schools Superintendent and/or Principal
Altacare Supervisor and/or Assistant
Two teachers from Philipsburg Schools
Granite County Victim/Witness Advocate
Granite County Attorney
Child Protection Specialists (2) with MT DPHHS (case workers)
Granite County Sheriff
Granite County Sheriff's Deputy, School Resource Officer
Juvenile Probation Officer**

Drummond Section:

**Drummond Schools Superintendent and/or Principal
Hall School Principal
Two Teachers from Drummond Schools
Granite County Victim/Witness Advocate
Granite County Sheriff
Granite County Sheriff's Deputy, School Resource Officer
Granite County Attorney
Child Protection Specialists (2) with MT DPHHS (case workers)
Juvenile Probation Officer**

The appointments were made on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended and noted that the team (Drummond and Philipsburg sections) have been holding meetings once a month for several years to share information to protect children, that confidentiality laws are being followed and that these appointments fulfill the legislative requirement that each county have a Child Safety Team; also, there will be no additional cost to the county as these are volunteer positions and the Child Safety Team does not require a budget as each team member's office has a budget. As public comment, Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper inquired whether the team can suspend or expel students. County Attorney Bradshaw explained that the team does not have specific authority over students, but the team shares confidential information so that each member can take individual action within their specific authority or jurisdiction according to what is best for the child. Also attending were Jacquie Venard with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper and Tim Allen with the Flint Creek Courier online news service.

Blanche McLure and Steve Immenschuh, board members with the Philipsburg TV District and Mike Coyle, board member with the Drummond TV District, met with the Board to request operational funds for the districts. Mike Coyle noted that Drummond has had some unanticipated expenses. Blanche McLure requested \$19,000 total from PILT (Payments In Lieu of Taxes) funds with \$15,000 budgeted to Drummond TV District and \$4,000 budgeted to Philipsburg TV District. Steve Immenschuh indicated that it would be nice to get both systems trouble free and have some funds for unscheduled expenses. Blanche McLure noted that the districts were formed many years ago and budgets for each district are submitted annually to the Board. Steve Immenschuh noted that some people are not yet aware that it is available free of charge and it should be advertised; and it would be nice to know how many people use the service. Mike Coyle noted that Drummond has 15 channels available. Steve Immenschuh noted that some people in Philipsburg do not receive the signal due to their location in town and that it would be good to provide coverage to the entire town. Commissioner Adler moved to fund \$19,000.00 from PILT to fund expenses for the TV districts. Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. As discussion, Commissioner Hinkle questioned the coverage and how many people use the service. TV board members reviewed the channels that each district distributes. Gail Leeper commented that the coverage in towns should be improved and then branch out to increase coverage. Steve Immenschuh suggested that a long term plan be established for each district. Discussion was held that a capital improvement fund could be set up for each district. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

The Board considered the quote from TWEnterprises of Billings for a state DES/Homeland Security grant-funded diesel generator system for Drummond Schools in the amount of \$35,656.78. Granite County DES had obtained three quotes from vendors and this was the lowest responsible quote. The Board agreed to enter into an agreement with TWEnterprises for the quoted generator system on the motion of Commissioner Adler and

second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board conducted the quarterly jail inspection and viewed the dispatch area. Commissioner Hinkle toured the jail, as this was his first jail inspection as a Commissioner.

The Board reviewed draft minutes for July 22 and 23, 2019. The minutes were approved as presented on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper reported that the Drummond Water Tower Project will not be done until next spring and will be completed by May 22, 2020, according to the town's engineer. Mayor Leeper noted that an open house is being held this evening by the Montana Department of Transportation at the Drummond Library regarding the proposed fence from Drummond to Jens on Interstate 90. She also noted that there is a general cleanup project currently underway in Drummond. Also, she indicated that the Town of Drummond may borrow money to resurface South Main Street.

Also as public comment, Planning Director Linda Bouck met with the Board regarding a matter about a subdivision road (Scenic Lane) at Georgetown Lake. The Board agreed that it is a civil matter and does not involve the county.

Correspondence: None.

The Board traveled from the courthouse to the Moose Lake area to participate in a special meeting of the Granite County Board of Health for a site visit to Lots 16 and 17, Moose Lake Acres No. 1, in Section 1, T3N, R16W. Minutes of that meeting are kept as a separate document.

The session adjourned at 12:00 p.m.