

**December 17, 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.**

**The Board participated in the Granite County Safety Committee meeting today. Minutes of that meeting are kept and approved separately.**

**Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt was unable to meet with the Board as he is transporting a snow plow to Oregon which will be mounted on the 2020 International truck which has been ordered.**

**Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.65 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 10.20 inches below full pool with an estimated 10 cfs over the weir below the power plant. The Board reviewed the Georgetown Lake Update dated December 16, 2019 that was completed and submitted to the Board by Dave Amman with DNRC. Commissioner Hinkle moved to make no change in the outflow and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.**

**The Board reviewed county claims for November 2019. The claims were approved 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 Public Works Director Sam Dennis met with the Board to request support for the town's application to the Tri-County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for a grant to improve the road to Fred Burr Lake, including the Red Lion Road. Mayor Reddish noted that Fred Burr Lake is the major water supply source for Philipsburg. Discussion was held that portion of the Red Lion Road is likely a county road and a portion is likely a Forest Service road. Mayor Reddish noted that the Forest Service is on board to cooperate with the project. The road is also access to Race Track Lake and other areas within the national forest, which is a requirement of the grant. Mayor Reddish requested the county's assistance on the county portion of Red Lion Road by supplying an excavator with an operator and culverts to prevent future washouts. The Board agreed that the Town should put that in the grant application. On another subject, discussion was held on the sanding of streets near the courthouse and Sam Dennis responded that the sanding will be greatly improved this winter. The Board noted that it intends to submit a RAC grant application for the Stony Creek Bridge Decking Project. Safety Coordinator Jackie Bolster attended.**

**Marty Gardner with Efficient Public Collaboration did not meet with the Board as scheduled to request participation in a new collaborative process for dealing with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended. Marty Gardner did telephone the Board later in the day.**

Engineer Jeremiah Theys with Great West Engineering of Helena met with the Board regarding the Flint Creek Project. He noted that the revised EAP (Emergency Action Plan) is ready to be submitted with comments from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) addressed. He also noted that filings with the FERC must now be done by e-filing (electronic filing) and filing by hard copy is no longer allowed. The Board reviewed the draft letter from Granite County to the FERC in response to the FERC's letter dated 10-4-2019. The letter outlines a piezometer monitoring plan which will be done by Granite County's dam tender Bill West. Jeremiah Theys reviewed details of the monitoring plan for the Board, which he has also reviewed with the dam tender. Commissioner Adler moved to approve and send the letter to the FERC. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion was held on points to be raised with the FERC representatives when they are scheduled to meet with the Board on February 4, 2020. Jeremiah Theys indicated that the Board can expect a letter from the FERC regarding the void which was discovered under the spillway slab, which he feels was inspected and completely addressed by the contractor during the construction last summer. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper and DES/Safety Coordinator Jackie Bolster attended.

The Board held the second reading of Resolution 2019-21 "A Granite County Resolution Amending The Granite County Subdivision Regulations To Revoke The Agricultural Covenant Exemption." The Board reviewed details of the existing agricultural covenant exemptions and the revisions proposed by this Resolution, which are intended to prevent the circumventing of subdivision laws and regulations through the use of agricultural exemptions. The Board noted that the Resolution is recommended by the Granite County Planning Board, which held public hearings on the proposed changes. Commissioner Adler moved to adopt Resolution 2019-21 and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board held the second reading of Resolution 2019-22 "A Granite County Resolution Adopting Amendments To Granite County's Growth Policy Pertaining To The Section Regarding The Town Of Philipsburg And Adding A Section On Local Government Coordination For Federal And State Lands." The Board reviewed the provisions of the Resolution and noted that the Resolution is recommended by the Granite County Planning Board and the Granite County Forest Management Advisory Committee. Commissioner Hinkle moved to adopt Resolution 2019-22 and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board considered the proposed "Agreement For The Use Of Salvaged Milled Materials And Salvaged Concrete Barrier Rail" with the Montana Department of Transportation for the salvaged material from a federal aid highway project (commonly referred to as STPP 19-1(62)27) on Montana Highway 1 from Georgetown Lake to Philipsburg. The agreement involves approximately 3,636 cubic yards of salvaged milled materials and approximately 591 sections of salvaged concrete barrier rail to be delivered to Granite County. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the agreement and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

**Marty Gardner with Efficient Public Collaboration contacted the Board by speaker telephone to discuss a proposed collaborative with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest regarding proposed wilderness areas. He apologized for missing his appointment on the Board's agenda earlier today. He agreed, at Commissioner Hinkle's request, to contact the Granite County Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) president Patti Kanduch to get the FMAC's opinion on the proposed collaborative and for the FMAC to then advise the Board.**

**The Board considered the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Granite County and Town of Philipsburg, including the Philipsburg Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD), regarding the installation of a generator and compressor at the Philipsburg Volunteer Fire Department. The county has received a federal grant (Federal Agreement No. EMW-2019-SS-00010) in the amount of \$77,411.00 for the project and the MOU outlines the obligations of all parties involved. The Board noted that the MOU had been reviewed and approved by County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the MOU and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Public Comment: Linda Ransford, with the Philipsburg Area Community Library District, met with the Board to report that most items found to be deficient in the building inspection report on the Philipsburg Library have been corrected and the area containing asbestos is not accessible in an upstairs attic space and will be left undisturbed. The library district board would like Commission approval to finish an existing restroom in the basement of the library building, which the library board intends to rent as office space, and Linda Ransford requested to have that item on a future Board agenda. The Board agreed to put the finishing of the basement restroom on a future agenda.**

**Also during public comment, Rae McKay and Larry DeMott met with the Board regarding Rae McKay's application for the Public Health Nurse position and to inquire why she was not offered the position. Chairperson Slaughter stated that the individual's right to privacy outweighed the public's right to know and the meeting was closed to the public. Chairperson Slaughter reopened the session to the public. No decisions were made by the Board.**

**Correspondence: The Board noted receipt of a letter from Roger Kirk with Flint Creek Hydroelectric LLC regarding the potential agreement restructuring for the Flint Creek Project. The Board agreed to review the letter with County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw.**

**Commissioner Adler moved to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 regular session and the December 11, 2019 special session as presented and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.**

**The Board met with historic architect Paul Filicetti with A&E Architects of Missoula, mechanical engineer Larry Cole and electrical engineer Dennis Wright for a walk through of the courthouse for the Third Floor ADA Compliant Restrooms Project and the ADA Compliant Handrails Project. The architect and engineers toured the courthouse with the Board and reviewed preliminary plans for the restrooms and hand rails projects, keeping in**

**mind that an elevator is planned to be installed at some time in the future. Discussion was held on the importance of maintaining the historic integrity of the interior of the building while meeting ADA requirements. Chairperson Slaughter signed the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Agreements for both projects, which had been previously approved by the Board. Courthouse custodian Janeen Bonney attended.**

**The session adjourned at 3:10 p.m.**