

February 11, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Office of the Granite County Courthouse with Commissioners Scott Adler and Charles Hinkle attending. Chairperson Commissioner Bill Slaughter was absent this day to attend the Montana Association of Counties Mid-Winter Conference. Also attending was Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Adler was selected as Chairperson for the session in Commissioner Slaughter's absence.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. The report included that at least two plow attachments on county snowplow trucks are worn out and should be replaced, but even if ordered now, they would not arrive until next fall and be in next year's budget. He estimated the cost at \$13,000.00 each. Commissioner Hinkle moved to order two new snow plow attachments and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried. Paul Alt said that he would bring in firm prices at the next meeting. Paul Alt noted that the stop signs on Rumsey Road have been stolen again. The Board considered putting a notice in the local newspaper and agreed to check with Sheriff Dunkerson for any leads. Janeen Bonney met with the group to discuss plans for placing the new utility shed which is expected to arrive in March. There was general agreement that it would go in the southwest corner of the parking lot adjoining the courthouse.

The Board and Road and Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt considered the Snow Fence Agreement with Mungas Co. Inc. Discussion was held on the length of the fence. The matter was tabled until the length of the fence, cost and budget are determined.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,429.11 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 4.68 inches below full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 15 cfs. The Board reviewed an email from Dave Amman with DRNC dated 2-6-2020. Commissioner Hinkle moved to increase the outflow to 25 cfs. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Paul Talon with Flint Creek Hydro LLC was contacted by the Board and was asked to increase the outflow. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended.

Patrick Little with the Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance met with the Board regarding the purchase/financing of a new Life-Pak 12-lead monitor with defibrillator for the ambulance from Zoll Medical Corporation. Zoll Medical Corporation is a vendor under NASPO, a reputable government purchasing cooperative in which the State of Montana contractually participates along and said contract allows local governments in the state to use this benefit and reduced pricing, so three quotes from vendors are not required under the county's Procurement Policy as the pricing has already been publicly bid out. The current monitor is old and outdated. A new monitor/defibrillator with trade in of the old monitor, would be \$27,000.00 and could be financed with no interest through the supplier. Patrick Little noted that The Ranch at Rock Creek had donated \$11,000.00 and that \$10,000.00 could be utilized

from the ambulance memorial fund. Also, it would replace three other machines in the ambulance. He also reported that there are three new EMT's on the roster. Commissioner Adler moved to purchase the new machine for \$30,000.00 less the trade-in of \$3,000.00 with a four-year payment plan. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried. Routine ambulance transfers were discussed, which takes the ambulance out of the county if there is a 9-1-1 emergency call. The Board agreed to discuss the matter with Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of the Granite County Hospital District. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, Robert Medof and Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Board reviewed county claims for January 2020. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the claims for January 2020 and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2020-4 "A Granite County Resolution Amending And Increasing The Encroachment Permit Application Fee Regarding Encroachments Within County Road Right-Of-Way." The Resolution raises the fee for an application from \$125.00 to \$200.00. Road and Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt contacted the Board by speaker phone with the comment that he is in favor of the increase because it takes him two or three site visits before an encroachment permit application is ready to recommend for approval by the Commission. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw indicated that the fee of \$200 is equitable for the time it takes the Road Superintendent to do the inspections. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2020-5 "A Granite County Resolution Supporting The Second Amendment Of The United States Constitution And Article II, Section 12 Of The Montana Constitution." The Board noted a communication from Gary Marbut with the Montana Shooting Sports Association which stated that he is in support of the Resolution. He also recommended that support of LR130 be included in the Resolution. John Barbara stated that he is in favor of the Resolution as written and recommended that LR130 should be considered separately. All those present expressed that they are in favor of the Resolution as written. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of Granite County Hospital District, met with the Board and presented the financial update. The financial report dated 2-11-2020 indicated projected cash available of minus \$(248,000), projected deposits of \$370,563, projected cash requirements of minus \$(50,000) for projected cash reserves of \$72,563 (6 days of operation). She also presented a utilization report, a revenue analysis, a balance sheet, accounts receivable aging report and an Administrator's Report dated January 28, 2019. She highlighted that Dr. William Reiter is the new medical director since Dr. Terry Jones has retired and they are working with NorthWestern Energy to get the power turned on for the CT scan machine. She noted that there is a construction loan with the local bank for up to \$250,000 to cover the additional expenses, which she hopes do not reach that level. Maria Stoppler reported that her contract with St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula expires April 9, 2020, and she plans to apply for the position with the hospital district, which has been

advertised. Commissioner Adler discussed the transfer of patients from the medical center, which takes the ambulance out of the community for a 9-1-1- emergency call. Maria Stoppler noted that a major reason for installing the CT scan would be to cut down on transports because that is the most frequently ordered procedure which now requires a transport. Discussion was held on how the medical center could assist with transfers, possibly a shared position that an EMT could fill. Maria Stoppler stated that she is in favor of a shared position, but it would have to be a person that is not critical to the medical center operation. She agreed to check with Eddie Amberg at the medical center to identify likely candidates. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper and Jackie Bolster attended.

The Board preliminarily agreed to write a letter of support for the Granite Conservation District grant application to the DNRC for \$35,000 to partially fund a coordinator for the Granite Headwaters Watershed Group. The action was taken on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. The motion carried.

Dustin Muhly, independent contractor for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coordinator, met with the Board to give an update on the program. He reported that there are four different protocols to be done this quarter, including a Continuation of Operation Plan, which the Board reviewed and Commissioner Adler signed. Dustin Muhly also reported on the Communicable Disease Response Plan and a procedure to investigate food borne illnesses, which he is working on in conjunction Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes. Also, he is working on a quarantine protocol and a volunteer coordination protocol. He noted that there is one person in Gallatin County for possibly having coronavirus and is National Strategic Stockpile Chempack for combatting nerve agents. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Board considered a proposed Consulting Agreement with Cynthia Ray to perform invoicing for the county Public Health Department. Discussion was held on the agreement and whether teaching a county employee to do it should be included. Cynthia Ray commented that she believed she would be an independent contractor to do the medical billing for the Public Health Department. Commissioner Hinkle suggested that the agreement be revised to reflect Cynthia Ray's understanding, that she do the billing, not be a consultant trainer. Commissioner Adler agreed that the agreement should be revised to reflect that Cynthia Ray would contract to do the billing. Cynthia Ray noted that she is able to provide \$150,000 for insurance, but not the \$200,000 required in the proposed agreement. She also noted that she is certified to do the medical billing and a county employee would not be certified. The Board agreed to consult with County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and request him to revise the draft agreement. Commissioner Hinkle moved to table the matter until the agreement can be revised. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. The motion carried. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper and Jackie Bolster attended.

The Board reviewed draft credit card policies for the county Road Department, Public Health Nurse, Drummond Ambulance and the card kept in the courthouse for occasional use by various county departments. The Board reviewed the draft policies and agreed with them. Commissioner Hinkle moved to adopt the policies and Commissioner Adler seconded

the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper and Jackie Bolster attended.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None.

Commissioner Adler moved to approve the February 4, 2020 minutes as revised and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 2:30 p.m.