

February 25, 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 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 Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt was unable to meet with the Board today.

As an administrative matter, Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes met with the Board and discussion was held on sanitation issues.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,429.07 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 5.16 inches below full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 30 cfs. Commissioner Hinkle moved to increase the outflow to 35 cfs to create more freeboard for spring runoff. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Paul Talon with Flint Creek Hydro LLC was contacted by the Board and asked to increase the outflow to 35 cfs.

The Board considered the draft "Public Notice From Granite County Calling For Lease Proposals" which gives notice of intent to lease the Granite County Medical Center building in Philipsburg, Montana and the Drummond Outpatient Primary Care Clinic to the Granite County Hospital District. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the lease is limited to five years, which requires that the Board provide notice, which must be published for five consecutive weeks, to allow any other entities to make a proposal. Commissioner Adler moved to publish the notice as required and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

Commissioner Slaughter gave a report on the MACo (Montana Association of Counties) Mid-Winter Conference which he recently attended in Great Falls. The report included that the association is cutting the loss control department and the association will not issue any new worker's compensation policies after June 30, 2020, which will require the county to find another worker's comp provider. He also reported that he attended the Public Lands Committee meeting.

The Board considered the letter drafted by County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw to Flint Creek Hydro LLC requesting a meeting regarding the Flint Creek Project and potentially restructuring of the existing Hydroelectric Agreement between that firm and the county. Commissioner Adler moved to send the letter as drafted and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The Board complimented County Attorney Bradshaw on the appropriate and concise wording of the letter.

The Board considered the Match Agreement for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for the Georgetown Lake Road Rehabilitation Project, which is estimated at \$182,008.00 and

requires a 13.42% match. Discussion was held on the match requirement and that the county would be expected to take over the road, which is currently a Forest Service road, when it is brought up to county specifications. Commissioner Slaughter stated that he felt that this is a good opportunity to improve infrastructure for county residents. Commissioner Slaughter moved to approve the Match Agreement. There was no second to the motion and the motion died for lack of a second.

The Board reviewed the requirements for a DNRC grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 which the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) received. Commissioner Hinkle indicated that the FMAC group is not in favor of continuing the grant and would like to return it to the DNRC, but had not voted on it as a group. The Board postponed a decision until the FMAC group votes on the matter. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* attended.

At 11:00 a.m. the Board held the advertised bid opening for the Flint Creek Fire Service Area's proposed new Skalkaho Fire Hall. The "Notice and Request for Bids by Flint Creek Fire Service Area" was published in the Legal Notices of the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper on January 30 and February 6, 2020. Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe read the two bids received in the order in which they were received as follow:

Koon Construction Inc., Hall: Overall Total = \$117,540
Grosvold Excavating, Anaconda: Grand Total = \$142,830

County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the Board could accept the Koon Construction bid if the bid bond is received by the end of the week. Commissioner Adler moved to accept the bid of Koon Construction Inc. at \$117,540 conditional upon Koon Construction submitting the bid bond (or equivalent, such as a letter of credit) to the Board by the end of the week. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. As comment on the motion, members of the Flint Creek Fire Service Area board, Jason Vietor and Sam Dennis, reviewed both bids and indicated that they are satisfied with the Koon Construction bid. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the contract on the Skalkaho Fire Hall with Koon Construction Inc. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. It was further noted that the Flint Creek Fire Service Area would hold a noticed public meeting before signing the contract. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper, Jason Vietor and Sam Dennis attended.

The Board held the second reading of Resolution 2020-6 "A Granite County Resolution Authorizing Acquisition Of Federal Surplus Property From The State Of Montana, Property & Supply Bureau." Commissioner Adler moved to adopt Resolution 2020-6 and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Board considered a request from the Granite Conservation District for a letter of support for a DNRC grant application to partially fund a coordinator for the Granite

Headwaters Watershed Group. Commissioner Adler moved to send a letter of support and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Slaughter excused himself from the session at noon due to a family emergency. Commissioner Hinkle was selected as temporary chairperson for the remainder of the session.

The Board considered the continuation of the billing program agreement with ABILITY Network Inc. for the Granite County Public Health Department. The program is necessary to bill for services provided by the health department. Commissioner Adler moved to continue the billing program and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board considered the offer for an Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) for the county DES (Disaster and Emergency Services) office. The Board reviewed the written correspondence from county DES Coordinator Jackie Bolster which indicated that the grant reporting requirements would be too time consuming for the amount of funds and she recommended that the grant offer be declined. Commissioner Adler moved to decline the EMPG grant offer and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Mark Sweeney met with the Board to discuss school bus stops and safety issues, sheriff's hazard pay, and the Drummond frontage road. School bus stops and safety issues: The Board suggested more signage, increasing the minimum and maximum fines for violations, suspended driver's licenses for violators, increasing visible lighting on buses and working with the school districts on safer school bus routes. Sheriff's hazard pay: The Board and Granite County Attorney stressed that sheriffs and deputies, including those in Granite County, do have a hazardous job and are the ones getting shot at by criminals, thus the need for hazard pay without increasing all other elected local officials' salaries as currently required by Montana law. Representative Sweeney concurred. It was discussed that there is a way through a statutory amendment to increase the sheriffs and deputies' pay without increasing the pay for other county elected officials. Drummond frontage road slide area: Representative Sweeney reported that he had contacted the state Department of Transportation and it is not a priority at this time. The Board suggested that a high tensile steel fence in that area would be beneficial. Commissioner Adler noted that rock slides are a routine annual event, although it was worse last year. Currently one lane traffic is open. On another subject, the Board discussed possible pay for ambulance personnel without the wage cap of the Good Samaritan Law. Also discussed was animal composting, possibly at the prison ranch at Deer Lodge, and the Water Rights Protection Act. The Board emphasized that the school buses and sheriff's hazard pay are the priorities. Representative Sweeney said he would work with the Granite County Attorney on these issues. Representative Sweeney informed the Board that he is running for the state senate and that he has previous experience in the Montana House of Representatives and as an Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commissioner. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Emily Petrovski with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None.

Commissioner Adler moved to approve the February 18, 2020 minutes as revised and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 2:20 p.m.