

March 10, 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 met with the Board and gave his report. The report included that the Town of Philipsburg is going to pump out the sewer lagoons and would like to borrow sand bags to use in the repository. The Board agreed to loan the bags to the town. Mason Lane is scheduled for an upgrade with a gravel surface. Commissioner Hinkle requested extra time next week to outline the major projects for the upcoming summer.

The Board reviewed statistics provided by Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt which indicated that the solid waste program is operating in the red. Commissioner Adler moved to raise the rate for solid waste in-district overages to \$87.00/ton from the current \$72.00/ton effective March 17, 2020. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The change of the rate will be advertised in the local newspaper and that large contractor loads must give advance notice to the solid waste container sites.

As public comment, John Grosvold contacted the Board by speaker telephone with a complaint about the Flint Creek Fire Service Area bid on the Skalkaho Fire Hall and the required bid bond. He noted that he had a bid bond with his bid and the other bidder did not. He also noted that he included the electrical. Commissioner Slaughter informed John Grosvold that the Board followed the advice of the county attorney and that he believed the process was legally proper.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.87 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 7.56 inches below full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 35 cfs. Commissioner Hinkle moved to increase the outflow to 45 cfs and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The Board contacted Paul Talon with Flint Creek Hydro to increase the outflow to 45 cfs.

Vince Reece and Paul O'Leary with the Granite County Airport Board met with the Board regarding the process of obtaining an engineer for an Airport Master Plan for Riddick Field Airport at Philipsburg. Also attending was engineer Steve Brown with KLJ Engineering of Great Falls, Mark Hudgens and Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper. Vince Reece presented board minutes from the airport board meeting. Paul O'Leary reviewed the requirements of the FAA, which must be followed precisely. He presented a master plan schedule to the Board and he gave a copy of the applicable FAA regulations to County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw. He noted that a Request for Qualifications for an engineer and a contractor for the planning process will need to be advertised. Paul O'Leary noted that the Board becomes a partner with the FAA and that the FAA will check to be certain that

each phase of the process is done correctly. Commissioner Adler moved to solicit and advertise a Request for Qualifications for aviation planning services and also architectural/engineering services for airport development projects for Riddick Field Airport at Philipsburg. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw agreed to work with the Airport Board to draft the required documents. Paul O'Leary noted that the current airport is on the verge of becoming a liability and following the project the airport will be an asset to the county following the improvement. He noted that 90% of the funds come from the FAA and Commissioner Slaughter noted that the improved airport will be good for economic development and for health emergencies. Vince Reece noted that reimbursement will be coming from the FAA once the master plan is completed. Entire project is projected to be \$1.7 million in total. He also noted that a \$17,500 grant was received for the project from state aeronautics. Discussion was held on critical points through the process and the possibility of some private funds coming into the project. Commissioner Slaughter emphasized the importance of the airport budget which will be coming up for the new fiscal year. Vince Reece noted that lengthening the runway is not a part of this project, which is only to improve the runway as it exists.

Linda Ransford with the Philipsburg Area Community Library Board met with the Board and gave a building update. Lighting fixtures have been replaced, increased usage is huge, looking for a part-time planner, café space is being rented for groups and meetings, their by-laws have been updated, and the policy book has been updated. She noted that a sewer line needed to be replaced and the Board noted that the sewer line replacement has been turned in to the county's insurance. Linda Ransford expressed appreciation to the Town of Philipsburg's crew which was very helpful in replacing the sewer line and damage was kept to a minimum.

Leigh Dollard and Christina Wernikowski, with Philipsburg Food Share, met with the Board and presented plans for a co-op grocery store in Philipsburg. The plan is to have dairy, fresh produce and other locally grown items. They are working with the Western Montana Growers Co-Op, they are looking for a building and finalizing the organizations 501©3 status. They feel that it is important to support local farmers and ranchers, and that it would not be in competition with the local grocery store, but would concentrate on local products. The Board noted that Drummond is without a grocery store at this time. The Board offered a letter of support or any other type of assistance that they may need.

As public comment, TJ Vietor, county Victim/Witness Advocate, met with the Board and reported that the annual grant has been declined by the Board of Crime Control (BOCC) because an organizational chart was missing in the grant application. She presented a letter which she has written to the Board of Crime Control, including an organizational chart which includes her position. She plans to attend the BOCC meeting in Helena later this week to present her letter and the additional information in person to request that the grant application be reconsidered. The Board agreed to write a letter of support for her to take to the meeting.

The Board reviewed information from Great West Engineering regarding a proposed annual update of the Dam Safety Surveillance Monitoring Plan (DSSMP) and the Dam Safety Surveillance Monitoring Report (DSSMR) for the Flint Creek Project. Commissioner Adler moved to have Great West Engineering complete the reports for \$4,200.00. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed information from Great West Engineering regarding a proposed work plan for servicing the piezometers in the Flint Creek Dam. Commissioner Adler moved to submit the work plan to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for review/approval. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Health Emergency Planning (PHEP) Coordinator Dustin Muhly met with the Board and gave an update on the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). He reviewed the Montana Health Alert Network information sheet dated March 9, 2020 with the interim guidance on outbreak of coronavirus and he noted that there are zero cases reported in Montana. Dustin Muhly noted that the CDC is urging extra caution for nursing homes and schools. He reviewed that the county has a quarantine policy which has been approved by the county Board of Health, if it should be needed, and the sheriff is responsible for enforcing it. He noted that there is not a vaccine for the virus. Also, testing is becoming more rapid. Jackie Bolster, as DES Coordinator, noted that she requested bids from three vendors for a base for the generator for the Philipsburg Fire Department and did not receive any. The Board agreed that she should go ahead and find a contractor to do that installation. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Board reviewed a proposal from Alliance Medical Staffing for professional medical staffing for a county Public Health Nurse. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw had noted that he had some proposed revisions to the standard staffing agreement, if the county decided to use their services. The Board noted that the basic rate for a Public Health Nurse would be \$67.00/hour through that staffing agency. The Board tabled the matter.

The Board reviewed information and maps from the Montana Department of Transportation, Geospatial Information Section, for roadway mileage open to public travel in Granite County. The annual certification of mileage was revised to include the addition of 8.2 miles of road. The Board agreed that the total mileage open to public travel is 749.324 miles, including the additional miles. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the revised mileage and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Chairperson Bill Slaughter signed the mileage certification and the Granite County map, both to be returned to the Department of Transportation.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: The Board noted receipt of a new petition to abandon a county road at Maxville submitted by Rae McKay. A similar petition submitted last week was found to be incomplete and it did not satisfy the legal requirements set forth in the Montana Code,

according to County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw. The new petition was referred to County Attorney Bradshaw to check for completeness and compliance with the requisite laws. Also, the Board noted the receipt of a letter from Flint Creek Hydro agreeing to a public meeting with the Board at a date and time to be agreed upon.

Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the March 3, 2020 minutes as revised and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 2:30 p.m.