

April 21, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in regular session in the District Courtroom of the Granite County Courthouse with Chairperson Bill Slaughter and Commissioner Scott Adler attending. Commissioner Charles Hinkle was absent this day. Also attending was Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw attended through Zoom. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance. The Board noted that this regular meeting is being held in the District Courtroom to allow for social distancing. The session is being live streamed in order to provide for remote public participation (via telephone or Zoom, and questions and comments can be emailed to the Board), as the Governor's directives regarding COVID-19 do not allow for the gathering of groups of people. Also, the Board is practicing the recommended social distancing (keeping people at least 6-feet apart) in order to slow or stop the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). People meeting with the Board did so by telephone, e-mail or the Zoom online communications service.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt did not meet with the Board to give his weekly report as he is traveling to Great Falls to pick up specialized culverts from the only supplier of these culverts in the region. Commissioner Adler reported that the plan is to take 20 to 30 loads of gravel to Henderson Creek Road and they are preparing to be ready to receive the asphalt millings when they are available when highway construction begins. May need some extra help when the millings become available. The sand at the Rock Creek Lodge may need to be moved to a less accessible place as unauthorized people are using it.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.34 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 13.9 inches feet below full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 44.7 cfs according to the USGS outflow gauge. The Board reviewed the update from Dave Amman of DNRC dated April 15, 2020. The report indicates that the lake level is in good condition at this time. Public comment: Ice pushes on gauge at the lake. Response: It has been repaired and should have no effect on lake level readings. The Board also reviewed questions and answers to Dave Amman from Brad Liermann. Commissioner Adler moved to make no change in the outflow and revisit this decision the following Tuesday, and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. Brad Liermann, FWP, attended and reviewed the optimized model from Dave Amman. Commissioner Slaughter noted that if water goes over the spillway that control of the lake level is lost. He also reviewed the capacity of outflow in the event of excessive runoff. Brad Liermann noted that it is a critical point just before the ice goes off. Public comment: Is the meeting a pod cast? Response: No, it is not. Brad Liermann noted that progress is being made on the fishing access near the Bohrnsen Bridge. Commissioner Adler suggested that he contact the road superintendent regarding parking. Commissioner Adler inquired of Brad Liermann if the FWP has found any funding for the Georgetown Lake Road Project as it improves access to fishing access sites. Also, the fishing access at Bearmouth needs to be cleaned up. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Health Chairperson Dr. Mark Ransford DVM and Public Health Emergency Planning (PHEP) Coordinator Dustin Muhly met with the Board and gave an update on the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Dr. Mark Ransford presented a written county update on the COVID-19 pandemic dated 4-21-2020 and noted that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Granite County at this time. Dustin Muhly reported that additional testing kits are available, there are no new confirmed cases in Montana and supplies from the state and national are arriving sporadically. Undersheriff Ty Hultman has replaced Sheriff Scott Dunkerson on the Incident Command Team. Dr. Mark Ransford noted that he participates in a conference call weekly with surrounding counties and he noted that some counties are considering opening in stages and all are awaiting the governor's new directive, expected soon. Commissioner Adler noted that people are not able to continue to have businesses closed. Dr. Ransford said that the county cannot override the governor's directives, but he expects that the closures will begin to open soon and the county should plan for that. The County Attorney concurred with Dr. Ransford on this issue of not being able to override the Governor's directives. Public comment: Do tests conducted outside of Granite County count in the county's figures. Response: Dr. Ransford said that the tests county for Granite County residents, no matter where the test is conducted. Dr. Ransford said that there needs to be a good way to track a person who has the virus and the county should be prepared to hire someone just to do that job as the virus could get away from us if that is no done. Dr. Ransford indicated that the Incident Management Team should continue to meet every week to track cases. Public comment: CDC recommends that people should wear a mask in public. Response: Dr. Ransford agrees with that. Public comment: Does Dr. Reiter agree with Dr. Ransford. Response: Dr. Ransford said that Dr. Reiter agrees that what has been done in Granite County is good, but Dr. Reiter does not agree with what has been done in the rest of the country. Dr. Ransford noted that is the county opens businesses it will be slammed with visitors. Commissioner Adler suggested that the out of state visitor signs should remain up. He complimented Dr. Ransford on the job that he has done. He noted that AAA states that travel is up 12%. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the governor's directive is effective through April 24, 2020. Dr. Ransford indicated that he is still going to move that the county restrictions be tied to the state directives. Commissioner Slaughter said that it would be helpful to businesses to be advised of any continuing restrictions, like Gallatin County is recommending. Jackie Bolster said that Gallatin County's guidance can be revised to fit Granite County. Maria Stoppler, DEO/DON of Granite County Hospital District, said that Phase One restrictions will need to be followed. Clayton Brown, pastor at Community Church, wondered how churches will be affected. Dr. Ransford indicated that gatherings should be limited to 35 people, wear masks in public, and observe social distancing, which will be the new normal with masks and lots of hand sanitizer. Maria Stoppler noted that places of worship are not included in Phase One and the governor will probably address that specifically. Pastor Brown noted that hand sanitizer cannot be found anywhere. Gail Leeper inquired how the Commissioners feel. Commissioner Adler stated that he is in favor of lifting restrictions. Commissioner Slaughter stated that he is in favor of opening in a safe and logical manner. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw said that if the Board takes no action, then the Governor's directives remain and still must be followed, so the Board of Health is not required to make a decision today. Public comment: Agrees with Commissioner Adler. Commission Slaughter wanted to wait and see what the Governor's new directives would be in the coming days, but County Attorney

Bradshaw noted that the County's Board of Health is meeting today and cannot meet until another publicly noticed meeting is set. Commissioner Slaughter moved for the current COVID-19 orders and restrictions continue as consistent with the Governor's directives so when the Governor's directives change regarding COVID-19, then the County's Board of Health orders will change accordingly and consistently with the Governor's directives. Dr. Ransford seconded the motion. There was no further public comment. The motion carried. Dr. Ransford noted that other counties are anxious to open up also. Public comment: A question about Incident Management Team meetings on Wednesdays. Response: County Attorney Bradshaw said that the Incident Management Team (IMT) meetings are not public meetings as they would be similar to the Sheriff meeting with the Undersheriff and deputies, so that's why he encouraged the Board of Health to make a decision today regarding orders and restrictions regarding COVID-19 matters. Commissioner Adler thanked Dr. Ransford for doing a very good job during this pandemic, but he does not agree with the governor. Dr. Ransford noted that the county has done very well because of the cooperation received. The Board noted that a copy of Resolution No. 20-10 from the City Council of Lakefield, Minnesota was received from John Spaeth.

The Board reviewed a contract amendment proposed by the Area V Agency on Aging for Contract Number A520-003-C due to a change in the federal allocation. There was no public comment. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the contract amendment and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Granite County Airport Board member, Vince Reece, met with the Board to request approval for a grant application for Riddick Field Airport in Philipsburg. Federal CARES legislation provides for \$1,000 for the airport, after completing a form, and it must be used for the airport. Vince Reece said that it will be used for pothole repairs and painting lines on the taxiway. Vince Reece is looking forward to making the engineer selection soon for the major runway renovation project. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw advised that the decision could be made today on the grant application as time is of the essence to request the funds. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the grant application and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

Leigh Ann Holmes, Director of the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Public Health Department, met with the Board regarding the proposed agreement (simple, short form) to provide public health nursing services in Granite County. The agreement includes a Project Statement, Plan to Provide Requested Services, Reporting and Program Contractual Requirements, Supervision and Technical Assistance, and Costs. The agreement is good through June 30, 2020. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw indicated that this agreement will be used until a more comprehensive written agreement can be decided upon if this current agreement is extended into the next fiscal year, and he verbally reviewed the provisions of the current agreement. Leigh Ann Holmes said that she agreed with the provisions of this agreement. Commissioner Adler moved to enter into the agreement and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried. Commissioner Slaughter indicated that the Board prefers more communication rather than less and Leigh Ann Holmes agreed that communication is key. Public comment: The agreement is not posted online. Answer: County Attorney Bradshaw stated that the final

agreement was not received by him (via e-mail) until after 5:00 p.m. yesterday and he had reviewed and summarized the provisions of the current agreement verbally today in the meeting.

Chairperson Bill Slaughter closed the session to the public to allow the Board to complete a Fraud Risk Assessment at the request of county independent auditor Donald Davies CPA. The session was closed by the Chairperson because the assessment contains highly sensitive information which, if released to the public, could result in direct harm to the county. The Board completed the assessment for return to auditor Donald Davies CPA. Chairperson Bill Slaughter then reopened the session to the public.

Sheriff Scott Dunkerson met with the Board regarding the unavailability of mental health services. Sheriff Dunkerson stated that Western Montana Mental Health (WMMH) is contracted to provide mental health services for prisoners. He noted that WMMH used to send a person to do evaluations and then it went to telehealth, and recently has not been able to provide that service. Sheriff Dunkerson said that he is getting information on how Missoula County Sheriff's Department handles mental health evaluations. Sheriff Dunkerson feels that he gets resistance from WMMH when he calls on them and they have refused to do one evaluation. He noted that Planned Parenthood provides some service in Missoula County and he has spoken with Ashley Westphal FNP, who is local and can do the evaluations, which are done to determine suicidal or homicidal tendencies. Sheriff Dunkerson suggested that a new service be investigated; he now does mental evaluations by taking the person to Missoula and dropping them off at St. Patrick Hospital and they take it from there. Also, the jail does not have the facilities for housing mentally ill people. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that one issue is that the Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs is full right now for beds for evaluations for defendants regarding their fitness to stand to trial; a contract with Providence in Missoula will be investigated to see if they will take people with charges against them; and possibly construct a padded cell in the jail building. Commissioner Slaughter noted that the county pays Western Montana Mental Health over \$8,000 a year; he suggested that a contract be investigated for mental health evaluations and for holding people who need additional mental health services. County Attorney Bradshaw agreed to take the lead to investigate the options, especially with Missoula County and Ashley Westphal, FNP. Sheriff Dunkerson indicated that intensive mental health services are needed about one time a year but the Sheriff and County Attorney predict that the need for better mental health services (including custodial arrangement for those charged with mental health issues) as additional mental health issues will increase during the next few months and even in the long-term.

Jackie Bolster, Public Health Assistant/Clerk, DES Coordinator and Safety Coordinator met with the Board to review the revised position descriptions for Public Health Assistant/Clerk, DES Coordinator, and Safety Coordinator. The Board agreed that the three position descriptions were not conducive to being combined. It was noted that several revisions were made to each position description with increased duties and responsibilities. Commissioner Slaughter noted that Jackie Bolster has done an excellent job of keeping the county health office going when there was no county health nurse and an excellent job of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and serving on the IMT (Incident Management Team). Commissioner Adler moved that all three of the revised position descriptions (each position to remain

separate) should be on the county's pay matrix at a Grade 9 based upon Jackie Bolster holding all three positions (and this established pay grade may not necessarily continue once Jackie Bolster does not hold any of these positions), the positions together will amount to full time (40 hours per week) and that it be retroactive to April 1, 2020. Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. Commissioner Adler moved to adopt the three revised position descriptions and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. Jackie Bolster noted that some funds will come back to the county through FEMA Public Assistance. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board considered Medicare Revalidation for the Drummond Ambulance. Jackie Bolster, with the Drummond Ambulance, met with the Board and explained that the revalidation means that the Drummond Ambulance will be reimbursed by Medicare for ambulance runs with Medicare patients and that revenue from Medicare last year was \$11,000. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the revalidation and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2020-13 "A Granite County Resolution Proclaiming Support Of Federal And State Laws Reclassifying 9-1-1 Dispatchers As First Responders." Commissioner Slaughter commented that dispatchers are the first people you talk to when you're in trouble, so he supports it. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that he wrote the Resolution to support that portion of the 9-1-1 Saves Act (proposed federal law) which refers to dispatchers being first responders, not the entire act. There was no public comment.

The Board considered the Funds Transfer Agreement in the amount of \$50,000 for the Georgetown Lake Road FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) Project. The agreement (FHWA Agreement # 69056720K500005) for project "MT Granite 8686(1) Georgetown Lake Road Rehabilitation" provides funding of \$50,000 from Granite County to the Western Federal Lands Highway Division by July 15, 2020. Commissioner Slaughter read aloud the first paragraph of the document. It was noted that the Western Federal Lands Highway Division had previously sent the wrong document and the new and correct document for Granite County to provide \$50,000 in funding is being considered today. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw reviewed the document in detail and advised the Board that the document is acceptable from a legal standpoint. The Board noted that a letter of support for the project was received from Kevin and Kim Gordon, the owners of a home in Jericho Bay Subdivision for sixteen years. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the Funds Transfer Agreement and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

Public Comment: Kerry Hatcher, 33 Stewart Lake Road, reviewed that there are several homes beyond where the sign states that the county terminates maintenance. He and several other homeowners have maintained the road in the past, and he spent \$3,000 last year on the road. He requested some material for the road and stated that the homeowners will do the work. Commissioner Adler noted that Road Superintendent Paul Alt had mentioned the road and that he was going to provide some material, specifically for one spot on the road to keep people from driving off the road to get around a bad spot.

Also as public comment, Dick Motta commented in reference to the meeting this morning which was closed to the public; in the case of the auditor, anything that he has to say should be open to the public and in reference to Montana law all meetings are open to the public. Also, there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow and it should be suspended. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that there were security issues related to the meeting this morning so it was closed to the public, and the IMT (Incident Management Team) meetings regarding current COVID-19 disaster are not open to the public due to personnel issues being discussed.

Correspondence: None.

Commissioner Adler moved to approve the April 14, 2020 minutes as revised and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 2:15 p.m.