

April 7, 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 Commissioners Scott Adler and Charles Hinkle attending. Also attending were County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe. 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, email or the Zoom computer program.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. The report included that he has gathered and numbered surplus items at the shop at Hall, which can be advertised for sale. They have put up 14 coronavirus signs at all road entrances to the county. The signs state that people coming from out of the county must quarantine for 14 days. The advertisement for the snow fence is currently being published. Grading of roads continues and another stop sign has been stolen at Rumsey. Paul Alt stated that the Lakeshore Road at Georgetown Lake Road needs material if the county is going to maintain the road.

Claim for Electrical Work: The Board reviewed a claim from T.E.C. The Electrical Connection of Philipsburg for work done on a Road Department building in Hall. The claim consisted of two invoices, Invoice #360 dated 3/28/2018 in the amount of \$516.35 and Invoice #392 dated 7/10/2018 in the amount of \$425.00, for a claim total of \$941.35. Paul Alt said that the work has been completed and is correct. The Board agreed to pay the claim on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.47 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 12.36 inches below full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 37 cfs according to the USGS outflow gauge, which became activated for the summer on April 1, 2020. Commissioner Hinkle moved to make no change in the outflow and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The Board agreed to determine the outflow as accurately as possible.

Board of Health Chairman 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 4-7-2020 and noted that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Granite County at this time. Dustin Muhly also reported that there are no confirmed cases in the county; the pandemic may be leveling off according to some models; medical supplies and equipment are still very difficult to obtain. Dr.

Ransford noted that there are a couple of people under quarantine for potential exposure; signs have been put in the highway right-of-way stating that out of county people must quarantine for 14 days; getting the message out on the county's website, sheriff's Facebook page, local newspaper and the online newspaper the Flint Creek Courier; developed forest campgrounds are closed, but the forest is not closed; signs are being made for local posting; if a case develops in Granite County the Granite County Medical Center has made arrangements with nearby hospitals to accept the transfer; getting excellent cooperation from businesses; he noted that the Incident Management Team has been meeting weekly. Dr. Ransford, as chairperson of the Board of Health, recommended that all current COVID-19 closures and mandates of the Board of the Health be continued (these are concurrent or the same as Governor's directives on COVID-19 except the Governor's stay at home order applies through April 24, 2020) for another week through April 14, 2020 and Commissioner Hinkle moved to continue the current closures in conjunction with the governor's current COVID-19 directives for one week through April 14, 2020, and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion was held on whether or not a periodic press conference should be regularly held to dispel some of the rumors going around. Dr. Ransford has been addressing rumors as they arise. Emily Petrovski with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper indicated that it may be valuable to have a conference call where people could ask questions, possibly on Facebook Live, with no individual names used. Public Health Assistant/Clerk Jackie Bolster noted that she is participating in this meeting. The sheriff's position is that the signs on the highways will stay up, even though there has been some pushback from the Montana Department of Transportation. It was reiterated that if people come from out of state, even if they live in Montana, they must quarantine for 14 days. The governor's directive is binding and people can be cited through the sheriff's office. Dr. Ransford noted that the sheriff is not seeking people out and the "stay at home" policy is self-regulated for the most part, but law enforcement will intervene as needed. Dr. Ransford thanked all the businesses for being very cooperative and he encouraged people to support them.

As an administrative item, Commissioner Slaughter asked the Board if they would like to speak with Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes about having regular office hours in the courthouse, like he does in the other two counties. The Board agreed to put the matter on a future agenda.

The Board considered Amendment Number One to Task Order Number 20-07-6-11-025-0, from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, to upgrade and enhance local public health capacity to respond to events surrounding COVID-19. PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) Coordinator Dustin Muhly noted that there is considerably more work required in this Task Order. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the Task Order and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was a public question of where to find the Task Order and the response was that it has been posted on the county's website under notices. The motion carried unanimously.

Since the County agreed to take on additional duties for more funding per the Amendment Number One to Task Order 20-07-6-11-025-0, the Board discussed the proposed "Addendum to Agreement With Independent Contractor For Public Health Emergency Preparedness ("PHEP") Services." Dustin Muhly noted that there are additional tasks and deliverables

required regarding COVID-19 issues. Commissioner Adler stated his concern that there may need to be other people employed or contracted with by the County in order to get this work done. Commissioner Slaughter noted that the county is in control of the funds. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that the addendum could spell out how the funds would be divided, possibly with the County Health Nurse and others, depending on who does the work. Public Health Assistant/Clerk Jackie Bolster commented that the hours would need to be kept separately. Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Smith commented that equipment updates have been paid with PHEP funds in the past. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the addendum can state that all costs are covered and that language can be added in Exhibit B of the Addendum regarding the County deducting from its monthly payment to Dustin Muhly any costs the county incurs regarding PHEP related matters each month. Becky Smith, former PHEP coordinator, recalled that additional funds were distributed to the county a couple of years ago for Ebola and the extra funds required additional work. Commissioner Adler moved that the county attorney make the amendments as discussed and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. As discussion, Gail Leeper noted that this is a biological epidemic and Dustin Muhly should have a mentor if he does not have one. Becky Smith noted that the state Montana Department of Public Health has excellent professionals who are always available to the local PHEP coordinator. The motion carried unanimously.

Pintler District Ranger Cameron Rasor met with the Board to discuss matching funds for the Georgetown Lake Road Project (Lakeshore Drive, Forest Service Road 8686) through the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). The estimated total project cost is \$1,356,250 and the required match is \$182,000 (13.42%). The Forest Service has committed \$90,000, RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) funds are committed at \$40,000 and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is now reaching out to determine the source of all matching funds. District Ranger Rasor noted that the FHWA contacted the county weeks ago, but he was fighting fires in Australia, which delayed the progress. He noted that Samantha Shields, Program Manager for the Western Federal Lands Highway Division, is scheduled to join the discussion at the April 14th Board meeting. The existing match will get the project started, which will not require the entire match. Commissioner Slaughter noted that FHWA will front the funds to get the engineering done. Discussion was held about the project cost increasing due to the rising costs of materials. District Ranger Rasor noted that the project can be tailored to meet the grant amount, even if material costs rise, and he noted that some items can be deleted if the cost goes over the projected cost. There was a question about where the road is located and Commissioner Slaughter reviewed that it is Lakeshore Drive on the west side of Georgetown Lake. He noted that the county did a review and there are approximately 189 homes that utilize the road, some of which lease land from the forest service, but pay county taxes on the structure. Commissioner Hinkle stated that he questioned why the county wants to be involved in a Forest Service road. Commissioner Slaughter noted that the project began several years ago with a FLAP application and some documents were signed in 2016 which indicated that the county would go forward with the project. District Ranger Rasor requested that the Board go and look at the road before next Tuesday and he noted that the FHWA is anxious to get their people moving on the project. The Board agreed to put the matter on the agenda at the next meeting, to include the FHWA. Elena Gagliano commented that she is against the project like she was a year ago and there

is no reason to attract more traffic to Georgetown Lake. Another person inquired if the road is a county road and the Board responded that it is not a county road.

Commissioner Adler moved to approve the March 31, 2020 minutes as presented and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Adler excused himself from the session at 11:30 a.m.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of Granite County Hospital District, met with the Board through live streaming. She reviewed the financial report dated 4-7-2020 with projected cash available of \$(38,000), projected deposits of \$125,000, projected cash requirements of \$100,000, projected cash reserves of \$(13,000) or one day of operation. She reviewed the highlights of the Administrator's Report dated 3-31-2020, and she is following recent legislation in regard to COVID-19 to monitor what may be available in regard to FEMA relief and low or no interest loans. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic and "Stay at Home" restrictions have very negatively impacted the facility's financial picture. She noted that medical supplies are adequate at this time. Commissioner Slaughter noted that the congressional delegation may be of assistance in locating federal funds. Maria Stoppler reported that a technician for the CT Scan has been hired, but came from out of state, so must quarantine for the required 14 days. Also, there is some electrical work needed to complete the CT Scan installation. Commissioner Slaughter thanked Maria Stoppler for her active participation on the County's current Incident Management Team regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board held the second reading of Resolution 2020-10 "A Granite County Resolution Accounting For Certain Donated Funds And Amending the County's Philipsburg Ambulance Association's 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget." Commissioner Hinkle moved that Resolution 2020-10 be adopted and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None.

The session adjourned at 12:20 p.m.