

March 31, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in regular session in the conference building of the Granite County Medical Center with Chairperson Bill Slaughter and Commissioners Scott Adler and Charles Hinkle attending. Also attending were County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe and John Skousen with Philipsburg Marketing Consultants as the IT consultant for the live streaming of the session. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance. The Board noted that this regular meeting is being held in the medical center conference building to allow for live streaming of the meeting in order to provide for remote public participation (via telephone, e-mail, and/or Zoom), as the COVID-19 pandemic regulations 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).

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. The report included that new picks are needed for a motor grader and a mud hole on the Stewart Lake Road will be filled in this year to keep drivers on the road; he is getting items together which will be publicly advertised for sale this spring.

Drummond Solid Waste Site: The Board noted that it has not been thoroughly cleaned in two years and discussion was held on when to do it again.

Snow Fence Project, Agreement and Public Bidding: Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the draft snow fence agreement with Mungas Inc. and advertise the project of a snow fence on East Fork Road for bid. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Rental House at Hall Road Department: The Board noted that the renter is three months behind in rent payments. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw was requested to write a letter to the renter on the motion of Commissioner Slaughter and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Health Chairman Dr. Mark Ransford met with the Board and Public Health Emergency Planning (PHEP) Coordinator Dustin Muhly met with the Board by speaker telephone and gave an update on the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Dr. Mark Ransford presented a written update on the COVID-19 crisis dated 3-30-2020; there are no confirmed cases in Granite county; two possible exposures, which are self-isolating; governor announced that anyone coming from outside of Montana must self-quarantine for 14 days; the courthouse is closed to the public and service are being provided through telephone, email or mail. Discussion was held on posting the governor's order in various public places within the county, such as the post offices, grocery store, etc. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that it is the sheriff's responsibility to enforce the Governor's directive and the County Attorney would prosecute such cases as needed. DES/Safety Coordinator Jackie Bolster agreed that the governor's directive should be followed. Dr. Ransford noted that there is an exception for people traveling through the state, provided that they leave the state. He noted that truck drivers are essential workers who received a raise and extended driving hours. Masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and tests continue to be in short supply. Granite County Hospital District CEO/DON Maria Stoppler noted that she is well supplied at this time and expects a shipment within a couple of days

from the national stockpile. Meeting as the Board of Health, Commissioner Hinkle moved to continue the closure and quarantine directives (same as Governor's orders) for an additional week through April 7, 2020. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. A question arose about how grocery store checkers are protected. Dr. Ransford responded that he will continue to give guidance, which has been well received, and restricting the number of people in the store at a time is a possibility, as is putting up plastic shields for the checkers. Dustin Muhly noted that shipments of essential materials are being made now to the hospital, courthouse and ambulance services, but they are hard to track because the invoices sometimes don't match the shipments. Discussion was held on keeping track of shipments. Jackie Bolster noted that some shipments are not labeled for which department they are intended. Commissioner Adler moved that, as a recommendation, the number of people going into a store (any business) that is open be limited as directed by the local health officer, that people stay at least six feet apart and that plastic shields be utilized for business checker clerks. Dr. Ransford seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Dustin Muhly noted that ambulance schedules are now being made by both ambulance services. It was reviewed that EMT's get paid as an EMT, even if they are driving the ambulance. Commissioner Adler reported that a used ambulance has been transferred from Drummond to Philipsburg, but it may need supplies to be set up for use. It was suggested that the LEPC Incident Management Team meet through live streaming. John Skousen agreed to assist in getting that set up. A question arose about the difference between self-quarantine and social isolation. Dr. Ransford stressed that self-quarantine is staying home except for emergency, period, and is not the same thing as social isolation. Dr. Ransford said that he will do a description of each and have it publicized. David Lee suggested that these meetings can be held from each participants office or home, rather than getting everyone together.

As an administrative matter, the Board approved claims numbered 57036 through 57041 on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Pintler District Ranger Cameron Rasor met with the Board through live streaming 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 matching funds. District Ranger Rasor reviewed the history of the popularity of Georgetown Lake, discussions began on improving the roads jointly between the Forest Service and the county; several years ago the Forest Service tried to give the roads to the county, but it did not get any traction until about 2014; it was known that it would take a lot of funds to improve the roads and two FLAP grants were submitted; one for the Georgetown Lake Road and one for this road. It was felt that the Georgetown Lake Road would be too expensive and require a match of over \$1 million, so the Lakeshore Road was selected because the match would be more reasonable. In 2017 the road agreement was signed and put into effect. Discussion was held on how many residents live on the road. District Ranger

Rasor noted that in 2014 the county agreed to submit the grant application and abide by the terms of the grant agreement. Commissioner Slaughter noted that other entities like FWP, sportsmen's groups and others may contribute matching funds. Commissioner Hinkle inquired why the county is involved in putting county funds into this road. District Ranger Rasor noted that the RAC meeting for this year has not yet been held to decide on funding requests. He reviewed that the Federal Lands Access Program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration, not the Forest Service. Commissioner Slaughter reviewed that he made a tour of the site with FHWA officials a few years ago and they indicated that this road is exactly the type of project the FLAP program was designed for and that other roads at Georgetown Lake would also be appropriate for the FLAP program. The officials also discussed other funding sources which do not require matching funds. District Ranger Rasor indicated that the current amount of match may be enough to get the project started and then determine the final match later. Commissioner Slaughter stated that since this project began several years ago, that a tour of the road should be made by the current Commissioners. District Ranger Rasor indicated that he will contact FHWA to determine the precise match required to get the project started. He reiterated that this is a \$1,356,250 project in total which will only cost the county and the Forest Service \$182,000, and the traffic at Georgetown Lake is very likely to keep increasing. The Board agreed to schedule a site visit. Commissioner Hinkle moved to table the matter and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.56 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 11.28 inches below full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 45 cfs. 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 held the first 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 Slaughter read the entire Resolution aloud. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the Board has previously approved the purchase of the monitor/defibrillator at a previous meeting and that this Resolution allows the memorial fund money to be used as a down payment of \$10,000 on the monitor/defibrillator cost of approximately \$30,000. The remainder is being financed with a no interest loan with annual payments over a few years. There was no public comment.

The Board reviewed the draft advertisement for the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for the county's on-call engineer. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the current five year on-call engineering agreement with Great West Engineering of Helena is expiring at the end of the fiscal year and he advised that the Board advertise a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for the position. Commissioner Adler moved to advertise for RFQ's for the county's on-call engineer and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2020-12 “A Granite County Resolution Calling For A Mail Ballot Primary Election In June 2020 As Authorized By Governor Steve Bullock’s Directive Dated March 25, 2020.” County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw gave a detailed synopsis of the Resolution and noted that due to the deadline in state election law that there was not adequate time to have a second reading of this Resolution. Commissioner Hinkle moved to adopt Resolution 2020-12 and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. County Attorney Bradshaw noted that due to Governor Steve Bullock’s directive that mail ballot elections are allowed to be held for the June 2020 primary election. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Dick Motta suggested that it is difficult to comment on items which the public does not have and he suggested that a copy be put with the agenda. He requested that the Board minutes be made public before they are discussed. The Board declined to give him a copy of the draft minutes but agreed to give him a copy of the minutes within a reasonable time after they are approved. Dick Motta began citing Montana law regarding minutes and County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw said that he is not going to get into a legal debate with Mr. Motta about Montana Law. Dick Motta stated that his right to participate was being denied.

Correspondence: The Board agreed to respond to Brian Robbins, Unit Manager of DNRC Anaconda Unit, email dated March 24, 2020 regarding the Rattler Gulch Timber Sale. The Board agreed that the DNRC’s safety measures are adequate on the road and that Kanduch Logging is being extremely careful. Also, the Board noted receipt of an email from John Hunter dated March 25, 2020, regarding the rock slide on the Drummond Frontage Road.

Commissioner Adler moved to approve the March 24, 2020 minutes as presented and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Dick Motta requested that a copy of the approved minutes be sent to him immediately. The Board agreed to send him a copy of the approved minutes in a timely manner. Dick Motta said that the Board was not complying with the open meeting law. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw said that it is his legal opinion that the Board is well within compliance of the open meeting law.

The Board thanked John Skousen for his assistance in live streaming the meeting today. It was further agreed by the Board that the next regular session would be live streamed again to the public, and the public would have any opportunity to participate remotely and provide public comment. The session adjourned at 2:25 p.m.