

April 28, 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 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 more than 10 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.

The Board held the bid opening for the East Fork Road Snow Fence Project which had been properly and publicly advertised in the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper on April 2 and 9, 2020. Three bids were received by the deadline of Friday, April 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. At Chairperson Slaughter's request, Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe opened the bids and read them aloud in the order they were received as follow:

| <u>BIDDER</u> | <u>BID PRICE</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunrise Fencing | \$39,996.00 |
| Fencing Unlimited, Inc. | \$56,780.00 |
| Wortman Fence LLC | \$63,360.00 |

The bids were discussed by the Board. Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the bid of Sunrise Fencing and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that it could be bid again if no bid is acceptable. The Board agreed that the project does not need to be bid again as the low bid here is acceptable. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The low bidder will be notified of the bid award. The two unsuccessful bidders will also be notified of the results. Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt attended.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his weekly report. The report included that the crew is working on the Henderson Creek Road and they are doing dura-patching; also, there is a problem with one of the water trucks. Commissioner Adler reported that Richard Komberec is digging on the Bear Gulch Road right-of-way and County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that Bear Gulch Road is definitely a county road. The Board agreed to request that County Attorney Bradshaw write a strongly worded letter to Mr. Komberec to not encroach on the road right-of-way without an Encroachment Permit being first issued by the County Commission, and this was on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.33 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 14.04 inches below full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 45.3 cfs, according to the USGS outflow gauge. 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 Granite County Board of Health met at 9:30 a.m. in conjunction with the regular Commission session with Board of Health Chairperson Dr. Mark Ransford and Commissioners Bill Slaughter, Scott Adler and Charles Hinkle attending. Dr. William Reiter was absent this day. A quorum of the Board of Health was present. The purpose of today's meeting was to discuss COVID-19 closure orders and the re-opening of businesses and other entities in phases. Treasurer Vicki Harding and Clerk of District Court Carol Bohrsen attended. Dr. Ransford submitted a written report dated 4-28-2020 which stated that there are no positive cases in Granite County, no one is in quarantine and there are no tests pending results. He noted that Philipsburg Mayor Daniel Reddish met with businesses which opened yesterday and told them that the threat has not changed and to observe the directive guidelines. Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper will speak to businesses in Drummond today. The schools voted to be closed the rest of the year. Success of the openings will depend on following the Governor's directive and people's willingness to follow it. A day of prayer (part of national day of prayer) is planned for next week on May 7, 2020 by private citizens on the courthouse lawn and Dr. Ransford requested that a grid (such as with chalk or other easily cleaned up material) be set up by the main organizer, Crystal Langton, so that participants are no closer than six feet in any direction, and that the gathering be limited to 50 people. Crystal Langton agreed the participants will follow these guidelines. It should be noted that Blaine Bradshaw will be participating at the day of prayer event, but as a private citizen during the lunch hour. Dr. Ransford noted that Montana has done an excellent job of keeping the virus under control. Public question: When will parks open? Response: Dr. Ransford noted that local parks are now open, but that the National Parks in Montana are not open yet; and the school playgrounds remain closed because social distancing is difficult in school playgrounds. Dr. Ransford noted that he is impressed with his team and we will just keep doing what we're doing; because of the good work the whole virus process has been slowed down.

Debra Robinson, Public Health Nurse, Report: She is working closely with Sanitarian Chad Lanes as businesses open and she is preparing for more cases of COVID-19 which are expected as businesses open. Logs and thermometers have been given to Mayor Gail Leeper to be distributed to Drummond businesses. Cloth masks are recommended for businesses and they should not be using medical grade masks, which are needed by medical staff.

Dustin Muhly, PHEP (Public Health Emergency Planning) Coordinator, Report: Hospital received 500 test swabs which increases testing capabilities. Other medical supplies remain very difficult to get.

Chad Lanes, Sanitarian Report: Guidance for restaurants, based on the Governor's guidance, has been circulated throughout the county, more are available and it is posted on

Granite County's website. Jackie Bolster noted that extra spray bottles for disinfectant are available at the public health office in Drummond. Chad Lanes noted that his department is ready and available to offer any assistance.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON Granite County Hospital District: She is advertising that the hospital clinic is open by appointment as some people think that the clinic is closed because walk-ins are not allowed. She is anticipating fully opening about the middle of May. She feels that people have been doing what they should be doing regarding the virus.

Dr. Ransford has 330 gallons of hand sanitizer on order to arrive next week. Also, five gallons of hand sanitizer are available at the brewery.

Public question: Will courthouse remain closed? Dr. Ransford recommends that the courthouse be open with only one public person allowed in any office at one time. Plexiglas shields have been ordered for each office. Dr. Ransford suggested that the courthouse open May 7th or earlier if the Plexiglas shields arrive sooner. It will be discussed at the IMT (Incident Management Team) meeting tomorrow and a decision on opening the courthouse will be made at that time. Public Health Nurse Debra Robinson said that there is a person in the lobby of the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County courthouse to check visitors in and provide them with a mask and hand sanitizer. She noted that masks are here to stay and they will not go away soon. Masks should be required of visitors to the courthouse, the county will provide some masks, and courthouse employees to wear masks on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Slaughter. As discussion, Dr. Ransford noted that the more people do, the more the virus is kept at bay. The motion carried. The Board of Commissioners agreed to revisit the issue of when the courthouse will reopen during the regular meeting next Tuesday (May 5 2020). Dr. Ransford asked if the courthouse concerns had been addressed and Vicki Harding and Carol Bohrnsen said that they were answered for now.

The Granite County Board of Health meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. and the regular Commission session resumed.

Historic Architect Paul Filicetti with A&E Architects of Missoula met with the Board regarding environmental testing for lead based paint and asbestos in areas of the courthouse planned for the ADA Restrooms and Handrails Projects. Paul Filicetti noted that having an environmental analysis of areas where work is to be done would be beneficial to bidders and likely result in lower bids. Commissioner Adler inquired about the cost. Paul Filicetti noted that some companies are reasonable for the analysis at approximately \$1,000.00, but if lead based paint is found it must be properly removed, which can be expensive. He also noted that the testing is to the benefit of courthouse employees and the public. Public question: Which restrooms are being discussed? Response: County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw responded that the remodeled restrooms would be on the same floor as the District Courtroom. The Board agreed to get quotes from companies to do the environmental testing for asbestos and lead based paint on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and second by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried. Public question:

Will this project include elevators? Answer: Elevators are not included with this project, but an elevator is planned for the future.

As an administrative matter, Jackie Bolster explained that there is a grant available for \$40,000 to be combined with Anaconda-Deer Lodge County's \$40,000, to hire a coordinator to assist people in accessing mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has a letter of support from Sheriff Scott Dunkerson. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the agreement with Western Montana Mental Health services is not exclusive, so the county can contract with another entity. The Board agreed that more information is needed before a letter of support is written.

The purchase of a new patrol vehicle for the Sheriff's Office, possibly using PILT funds, was discussed by the Board. The Board reviewed the sheriff's department current budget and funds are available for a new vehicle in the overall sheriff's budget. Commissioner Adler moved that the Sheriff may immediately enter into a purchase order for a new patrol vehicle in which payments would be made over three (3) years, and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that competitive public bidding for this vehicle is not required if the vehicle under \$80,000 (appears the pricing will be below), but competitive public bidding is also not required as this is an emergency because the Sheriff's Office is desperately short on patrol vehicles and time is of the essence in ordering the vehicle; and it was further noted that the Sheriff's Office will be purchasing the new patrol vehicle through a Sourcewell vendor, Sourcewell being a government purchasing cooperative in which the pricing has already been publicly bid out and the County has a contractual agreement with Sourcewell.

The Board held the second reading of Resolution 2020-13 "A Granite County Resolution Proclaiming Support Of Federal And State Laws Reclassifying 9-1-1 Dispatchers As First Responders." County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that this Resolution is support for the legislation which would reclassify dispatchers, but this Resolution does not reclassify dispatchers. Commissioner Adler moved to adopt Resolution 2020-13 and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: The Board noted the receipt of Sam Donahue's resignation from the Granite County Airport Board effective immediately and expressed their gratitude for his service. The Board agreed to advertise all open county advisory board positions in the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper. The Board also noted receipt of a letter from the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) dated 4-27-2020 regarding the Second Part 12-D Independent Inspection for the Flint Creek Project. The letter was forwarded to dam engineer Jeremiah Theys and to independent engineering firm DOWL, which conducted the Second Part 12-D Independent Inspection. The Board agreed to send a letter to Flint Creek

Hydro requesting a response to the Board's request for financial options, as promised by Flint Creek Hydro, for the Flint Creek Project.

Commissioner Adler moved to approve the April 21, 2020 minutes as presented and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Victim/Witness Advocate T.J. Vietor met with the Board and reported that the grant application for the Victim/Witness Advocate Program had been denied due to one missing piece of paper, an organizational chart. She said that there is another opportunity next week to apply for grant funds for this fiscal year. She requested that if grant funds are not received, that the Board fund her salary, cell phone and copying costs, but not mileage, which is a huge item, for the current fiscal year. County Attorney note: There is a county vehicle which potentially could be used as mileage must be reimbursed or a county vehicle offered. TJ Vietor then reviewed the details of what her job involves, the various and unusual needs that victims have, and the passion and dedication she has for the job. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw expressed his support for the importance of the job that T.J. Vietor does. The Board agreed to postpone a decision until the new grant cycle is decided.

The Board reviewed Task Order 21-07-4-31-119-0 with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for the county immunization program in the amount of \$4,218.00. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the Task Order and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw said that he has reviewed the Task Order and it is acceptable from a legal standpoint. The motion carried.

The session adjourned at noon.