

July 7, 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 County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance. 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). Masks were also strongly recommended.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. The report included that a vibratory roller has been rented from Western States Cat of Missoula. There are three motor graders working in the Georgetown Lake area. Craig Markovich and Kathy Laslovich met with the Board to say that the roads at Georgetown Lake are in terrible condition. The Board noted that there has been an unusual amount of rain this season. Paul Alt noted that there were three crews working at Georgetown Lake the previous day and they were there again today, so the roads will be much improved today.

In an administrative matter, Melissa Obermeyer notified the Board by speaker telephone of the Obermeyer family logging operation's plan for logging on Bear Gulch Road on a placer claim owned by Charles Komberec, logging on approximately 100 acres on five miles of road. Plans are for building roads and not running equipment on the county road. The Board recommended that she visit with Road Superintendent Paul Alt about the plans. The Board advised her that she must have a written agreement with Granite County before doing any logging in the Bear Gulch Road right-of-way. The Board was clear with Ms. Obermeyer, and they did not represent that they would be willing to enter into an agreement as such would need to be a future agenda item. The Board further notified Ms. Obermeyer that they would need to apply for and receive an encroachment permit if desiring to install or modify any driveways in the Bear Gulch Road right-of-way. Each separate modification and installation would require a separate encroachment permit. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,430.14 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 7.68 inches above full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 110.00 cfs according to the USGS outflow gauge and the dam tender's report. The outflow had been recently reduced during the week to 110 cfs from 170 cfs due to damage concerns of a culvert below the dam at the weir pond. Commissioner Hinkle moved to increase the outflow to 140 cfs and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. The Board agreed that the lake level needs to be lowered because it is flooding lakeshore property. The Board noted that emergency repair work has been done at the weir pond and they feel that 140 cfs is reasonable. Chuck Stokke and John Groomes, as public comment, agreed that 140 cfs would be workable. The motion carried unanimously. The Board notified Paul Tallon of the decision and requested that he make the change in outflow. A public comment was made that in the past, the stream bed was lowered when the weir

pond was cleaned. The Board noted that the plan is to reduce the lake level to crest elevation and once that is done, releases will be reduced to 30 cfs. The Board received letters from Brian Solan, Michael Stevenson, John Groomes, Ed Peretti, and John and Gypsy Ray objecting to the current lake levels and some allegations regarding mismanagement of the project. Attending were Gary Carlson, John Groomes, Kathy Laslovich, Greg Markovich and Chuck Stokke.

Granite County Board of Health met with Commissioners Slaughter, Adler and Hinkle present, constituting a quorum of the Board of Health. Dr. William Reiter and Dr. Mark Ransford did not attend. Dustin Muhly, county PHEP (Public Health Emergency Planning) Coordinator, reported that the state had 37 cases yesterday, 4 confirmed cases in the Granite County, and most of the 30 people who had been under quarantine are off quarantine today. Two people continue to exhibit symptoms and will quarantine for two more weeks. Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of Granite County Hospital District, said that 140 tests have been done, but results are not yet available. Dustin Muhly anticipates the \$38,000 grant for public health, which has been approved, will be coming soon. He reported that he will not be here next week. He plans submit the deliverables which are due today to the state. Nationally, figures are not good and some southern states are experiencing dramatic spikes in cases. Discussion was held on whether the governor will require people to wear masks, as it is just a recommendation at this time. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw agreed to investigate how much authority the county would have in that situation. Several people noted that there are more people in the area this season than they have seen in 14 years. Dustin Muhly presented two documents, Pandemic Influenza Response Plan and Instructions for COVID-19 close contacts, for the Board of Health's review; approval will be on next week's agenda. Maria Stoppler noted that for special circumstances nursing home residents can visit with relatives in the courtyard. COVID-19 testing is being conducted two days a week in Philipsburg and one day a week in Drummond at no cost. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw reported that during IMT (Incident Management Team) meeting last week that was incorrect information provided by a non-team member regarding of use of the Drummond School gymnasium, and it was pointed out that the IMT system works only when correct information is given. The Drummond Schools now have an approved plan for gymnasium use.

Discussion was held on the operation of the county's PHEP (Public Health Emergency Planning) Program for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Commissioner Adler moved to open up the independent contractor position for the coming fiscal year and publicly advertise a request for proposals for an independent contractor to operate the PHEP program, and that the advertisement would run for two weeks in the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper with proposals being due by the end of the day on July 24, 2020. The Board discussed this with PHEP Coordinator Dustin Muhly, and both the Board and Dustin Muhly agreed he would continue under his current contract through the end of July 2020. Dustin Muhly stated that he was interested in continuing and would submit a proposal. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Jackie Bolster met with the Board by speaker telephone to discuss the Area V Agency on Aging portion of the Public Health Department budget. Discussion was held on increasing the budget for home visits. The matter will again be put on next week's agenda.

The Board held a telephone conference call with Jeri Bucy, Montana Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census. She noted that in the most recent report that Granite County had a score of people completing the 2020 Census of 26.3%. The COVID-19 epidemic has changed the way the census is being done. The Board agreed that the response must be improved. Jeri Bucy will share some information for using social media with the Chambers of Commerce in Philipsburg and Drummond. Commissioner Slaughter volunteered to do a radio interview to promote the census. Jeri Bucy noted that the final phase will begin soon with door to door work, but would like to get as many responses as possible prior to that. Final phase will begin on August 11th. She noted that the census is important in getting federal funds to the county level; it amounts to \$2,000 per person per year. She emphasized that people respond better to people they know. Commissioner Hinkle moved to advertise in the newspaper for 3 weeks to promote the census and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board received notice from the Montana Aeronautics Division that a grant had been offered in the amount of \$5,000.00 for an airport courtesy car for Riddick Field at Philipsburg. The Granite County Airport Board had applied for the grant. Airport Board Chairman Vince Reece told the Board that another car (this would be the second courtesy car) would be useful at the airport. He reported that the current courtesy car is always returned full of fuel so there is no fuel expense. Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the grant offer and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The airport budget was discussed and Vince Reece noted that \$100,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund is budgeted to be spent but will be reimbursed through federal funds and state funds. The Board discussed having a budget work session for all officials and county board members.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON for the Granite County Hospital District, met with the Board and submitted the monthly financial update. The financial report dated 7-7-2020 projected cash available of \$360,000, projected deposits of \$190,000, account payable of \$170,000 and projected cash reserves of \$380,500 (33 days of operation). Relief funds to cover COVID-19 expenses and lost revenue through May 31, 2020 was \$645,000. She also presented utilization results, a balance sheet, a profit and loss, and an administrator's report dated June 20, 2020. She reviewed the highlights of the report including COVID-19, sentinel surveillance, activities/life enrichment. The CT scan is active and a technician has been hired, and the Hospital Board discussed having a voted levy at the General Election for \$380,000 for two years. Telehealth is being emphasized due to ease of use by patients.

The Granite County Courthouse Accessibility Improvement Project for Third Floor Rest Rooms and Hand Rails pre-bid conference was held with architect Paul Filicetti with A&E Architects of Missoula. The Board and architect participated in the conference and walk-through, along with Brandon Stewart with Crew General Contractors and Marc Ingraham

with Ingraham Environmental. The Board reviewed the plans and specifications and the architect reviewed the alternates in the bid documents. The bid opening on the project is scheduled for July 14, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. at the Board's Office in the Courthouse.

County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw updated the Board on the case with Mr. Richard Komberec and the Bear Gulch Road. He noted that the civil complaint in the case has been filed in District Court. It was further noted that Mr. Richard Komberec still needed to be served with the civil complaint and summons, but this will happen soon.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: The Board received a letter from the Flint Creek Fire Service Area regarding the lack of participation of two board members. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw agreed to review the organization's by-laws regarding the proper procedure to replace board members, if that becomes necessary.

Commissioner Adler moved to approve the June 30, 2020 minutes as presented and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 2:30 p.m.