

June 30, 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 was unable to meet with the Board as he is dealing with some flooding. The Board noted that road work will be behind schedule due to the current heavy rain which prevents road grading. Discussion was held that a private party is requesting to make substantial improvements on a portion of the East Fork Road. The Board agreed that a contract will be necessary prior to work beginning and will be speaking with County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw regarding the contract.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,430.22 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 8.64 inches above full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 170.00 cfs according to the USGS outflow gauge and the dam tender's report. Commissioner Adler moved to make no adjustment in the outflow and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. The Board noted that the outflow increase to 170 cfs was made by Board agreement yesterday due to an emergency because of the continued rainfall. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw read an email from Georgetown Lake homeowner Brian Solan, which arrived this morning and requested that the outflow be left at 170 cfs or higher until the lake level reaches the level of the spillway. Mr. Solan's letter also criticized the Board and alleged mismanagement for allowing the lake level to be so high, but he did thank the Board for increasing the outflow the previous day. The Board's response was that the tremendous rainfall caused this and everyone must take into consideration the FERC rule that the lake level must be within one foot of full pool on May 31st of each year. Commissioner Hinkle inquired how long it would take at the current flow to get to the spillway level. Chuck Stokke recommended that Dave Amman of DNRC be asked that question, as he is the expert. The motion carried unanimously. In an email later in the day, Dave Amman indicated that he estimates it would take 17 to 22 days for the lake level to reach spillway elevation at the current outflow of 170 cfs.

Discussion with Dam Tender Bill West and Hydro Operator Paul Tallon regarding lake level regulation was postponed.

The Board reviewed the draft "Granite County Commission's Internal Policy Regarding Georgetown Lake Reservoir Levels And Outflow Decisions" dated July 2020. Betty Munis submitted a written request for the addition of the following underlined quote to the fourth recital: 'Whereas, Granite County must balance factors "and priority dates related to needs" such as irrigation needs, lake homeowner needs, valley landowner needs, fishery biology needs in Georgetown Lake and downstream.' She commented by speaker telephone

on the importance irrigator's water rights and priority dates. Commissioner Adler moved to include Betty Munis' comments in the draft policy. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Adler emphasized that all requests must come to the Commission and not to the dam tender or Flint Creek Hydro's power plant employee, which is in the policy. Chuck Stokke stated that the policy is completely fine with him, as it takes care of any emergency situations between Commission meetings. It was noted that irrigators can monitor their head gates during high water flow. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the revised draft policy and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Slaughter reported that he had a discussion with Brad Liermann with FWP and noted that freeboard must be discussed early in the spring so freeboard is available for spring runoff. Commissioner Slaughter noted that the lake level balances a lot of things, including the lake landowners, irrigators, water rights and the fishery. Those signing in as attending were Chuck Stokke, Gypsy Ray, John Groomes, Gary Carlson and Emily Petrovski with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper.

Granite County Board of Health met with Dr. Mark Ransford, Commissioners Slaughter, Adler and Hinkle present, constituting a quorum of the Board of Health. Dr. William Reiter did not attend. Dustin Muhly, county PHEP (Public Health Emergency Planning) Coordinator, reported a definite uptick of 56 COVID-19 cases in Montana in one day; 3 confirmed positive cases in Granite County, which are all related; significantly more COVID-19 tests are being done in the county; 30 people are in quarantine in Granite County; 24 tests were done yesterday due to potential exposure; increase of 46% in cases nationally; no quarantine if a person is asymptomatic; additional PPE has been ordered; and he attended the annual spring meeting virtually. He discussed fire resources, which will utilize air tankers, and firefighters will stay in pods. Commissioner Slaughter suggested that the IMT (Incident Management Team) put together a policy before a fire event occurs. Dr. Mark Ransford indicated that local businesses are aware of the fire camps and the business they bring to town. There will be an IMT (Incident Management Team) meeting tomorrow. Dustin Muhly noted that the Epidemic Influenza Plan is complete and an executed copy will be given to the Board when he receives it back from other people signing it. Dr. Mark Ransford noted that PHN Debbie Robinson is doing contact tracing, there is a need to support the families of ill people, starting tomorrow anyone can get tested without charge in Philipsburg and Drummond, he has suggested that hand washing stations be set up at front doors of businesses, many rumors going around, but quarantines are confidential. He emphasized the importance of wearing masks, which stops people from spreading the virus. Dr. Ransford noted that people have been good about following the rules now that the virus is here. He estimated that it takes about three days to become symptomatic after exposure. Jennifer Robinson, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, participated by speaker telephone. Gail Leeper participated by Zoom.

Discussion was held on the county's PHEP (Public Health Emergency Planning) Program for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Dustin Muhly agreed to come in next week to discuss the continuation of the contract. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that there may be an

opportunity for public health to perform part of the contract for financial credit to public health. Dustin Muhly said that he would like to attend a national training by FEMA in the spring, if it is held.

As an administrative matter, DES/Safety Coordinator Jackie Bolster noted that there are some areas of flooding along upper Flint Creek and near Porter's Corner Lane. She also noted that the warning sirens at the Flint Creek Campground for the Flint Creek Dam were tested successfully last week with activation from the sheriff's office.

The Board reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Montana Wool Gowers Association, Predator Control Fund for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The MOU indicates that there are 348 stock sheep on the tax rolls to be charged a license fee per head of \$1.00. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the MOU and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the draft "Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Granite County and Drummond Schools" for Public Health Nurse services for the 2020-2021 school year. Christina Barbachano, Drummond Schools Superintendent, participated by speaker telephone, and she indicated that she is in favor of the MOU as drawn up by County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw. Commissioner Slaughter encouraged good communication during the course of the agreement. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the MOU and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board conducted the planned walk-through with Custodian Janeen Bonney, County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and potential bidders on the Courthouse and Jail Masonry Project. Wells Hansgen with Hydro-Tech Inc. of Lehi, Utah and David Kesler III, a contractor in the Philipsburg area, attended as potential bidders. Wells Hansgen indicated that his firm has done a lot of masonry work in Helena and Anaconda.

Commissioner Slaughter excused himself from the session at noon. He verbally gave his proxy to Commissioner Adler to vote for him for the afternoon session.

Commissioner Adler was selected as temporary chairperson for the afternoon session.

The Board met with Eric Bunting and John Skousen with the Philipsburg Marketing Group regarding their proposal for county website redesign and webmaster services. The Board noted that favorable responses were received from the group's three local references. John Skousen gave an overview of the proposal. Eric Bunting showed the example of the Granite County Hospital District, a website that the group created. John Skousen noted that this can be a two-part project; design of the website being the first part and the maintenance of the website being the second part. John Skousen indicated that the budget for the proposal is somewhat negotiable. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw indicated that he would draw up a basic agreement if the Board elected to go with this group. The Board thanked them for the presentation and agreed to have them return to another public meeting when Commissioner Slaughter is present. No decision was made.

The Board discussed the Bear Gulch Road Case with County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw. He noted that he revised the complaint and that all county roads are 60 feet wide unless ordered otherwise by the County Commissioners. Commissioner Hinkle moved that the draft civil complaint be filed in District Court by the County Attorney, that the parties be served with the complaint and summons, and that the county would pay for half of the mediation when that is ordered and occurs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adler. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed the application of Charlene Bucha for the unexpired term of a trustee position on the Philipsburg Area Community Library Board. Commissioner Adler, through his proxy from Commissioner Slaughter, moved to appoint Charlene Bucha as a trustee of the Philipsburg Area Community Library Board for a term ending June 30, 2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. As discussion, Barbara Cahill recommended Charlene Bucha for appointment and believes that she will be an asset to the board. There was no further public comment. The motion carried with Commissioner Hinkle abstaining from voting. Barbara Cahill presented a copy of the library report for the Town of Philipsburg dated 7-7-2020. She noted that social distancing at the library has been achieved by utilizing the library courtyard.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: The Board received a report from Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes regarding a complaint on surface water contamination on Boulder Creek and a septic pumper update. Also, the Board received notice of the PILT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) distribution for 2020 of \$283,070 for Granite County. The Board questioned the method of distribution as many counties with the same amount of federal land received considerably more money. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw agreed to investigate the method of PILT distribution and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the June 23, 2020 minutes as presented and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The Board also approved the minutes of the closed session held on June 23, 2020 for an employee evaluation on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. The motion carried unanimously. The minutes of the closed session are kept securely in County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw's office.

The session adjourned at 2:30 p.m.