

August 4, 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 worn by many people in attendance. The session was livestreamed through the Zoom computer program available to the public, and the public was also allowed to attend in person.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. The report included that the crew has been blading roads, which speeds up traffic, which beats the road to pieces again.

The Board agreed to advertise for 1,000 yards of sand delivered to Philipsburg and 1,000 yards of sand delivered to Hall. Both in pit and delivered prices are to be given. The action was taken on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner Hinkle. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

Gravel purchase discussion took place between the Commission and Paul Alt. Paul Alt stated that the county didn't need much gravel for the remainder of the year. Gravel would be purchased from local vendors in the county as such will be under the amount required for public bidding. All local gravel vendors in the county would be used.

Chip sealing of millings at Georgetown Lake, Mullan Trail, and other county roads was discussed by the Board. Commissioner Slaughter moved to get bids (publicly advertise in a legal newspaper covering the county) for chip sealing on seven total miles of county roads and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

Stretching the boat barrier cable at Flint Creek Dam each spring was discussed. Commissioner Slaughter moved to have the Road Department stretch the boat barrier cable each spring. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

The plan for logging within and adjacent to Bear Gulch Road right-of-way by Obermeyer Logging has not been submitted. Paul Alt plans to meet with them when they are available.

Rental or purchase of a mower was discussed and Paul Alt will get more information.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,429.53 feet, according to the USGS gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately .36 inches above full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 51.5 cfs according to the USGS outflow gauge and the dam tender's report. Commissioner Hinkle moved to shut off the gate valve and run 45 cfs through the power plant. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Sonny Capece, with U.S. Representative Greg Gianforte's office, attended to discuss the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He noted that it is a very autonomous federal agency which does not respond well to congressional

pressure, but he noted that he could provide more assistance in working with FERC, as requested.

The Board reviewed the draft First Amended Internal Policy regarding Georgetown Lake (adding spillway usage policy). There was no public comment.

Dustin Muhly, county PHEP (Public Health Emergency Planning) Coordinator, met with the Board and reported that there are four active COVID-19 cases and contact tracing is being done. Sixty new active cases state-wide yesterday. There were 200 tests done during sentinel testing in Granite County and all were negative. Twenty tests are awaiting results. He plans to take the contact tracing course through Johns Hopkins. Mandatory masking was discussed and Commissioner Slaughter noted that there is excellent compliance at some businesses and in some businesses there was no compliance. Commissioner Adler noted that mask wearing is better when it is encouraged, but people are resentful of being required to do so and have the opposite reaction, and Chairperson Slaughter concurred.

Granite County Board of Health met with Commissioners Bill Slaughter, Scott Adler and Charles Hinkle present. Dr. William Reiter and Dr. Mark Ransford were absent. A quorum of the Board of Health was present. PHEP Coordinator Dustin Muhly said that the order for a stockpile of materials has been canceled or backordered. Public Health Assistant Jackie Bolster said that PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and thermometers will be ordered as previously decided upon by the Board of Health. The Board indicated that a county stockpile should be maintained and can be ordered through Amazon online marketplace which has available supplies as there are no local vendors of PPE. Question about schools; Dustin Muhly said that local schools are still undecided. Commissioner Adler moved to adopt the Pandemic Influenza Plan and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. Dustin Muhly indicated that the Close Contacts Instructions for COVID-19 have changed and he will get the latest version. Question; have nursing home residents been tested? Yes, they have been tested. Discussion was held with Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes regarding the enforcement of regulations and the purpose of education when regulations are not followed.

Commissioner Slaughter moved to utilize the *Missoulian* newspaper for advertising in the future and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposals for an Independent Contractor to administer the PHEP (Public Health Emergency Planning) Program in Granite County previously received from Gail Leeper and Dustin Muhly were reviewed. The advertisement for the submission of proposals was published in the July 9 and 16, 2020 issues of the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper. The two proposals were received by the deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2020. Both applicants were present and both were open to an interview process in open meeting as they waived any privacy interests. Questions were asked alternated to each candidate by each Commissioner; regarding COVID-19 and more community oriented; duplication of services with other county services; plans and protocols; additional deliverables due to COVID-19; change of PHEP Coordinators during a pandemic; continuity is essential; relationships with other

entities are important; references were reviewed; orientation and expectations; working for the public; strengths in understanding deliverables and coordination with other entities; importance of confidentiality. The applicants each made final comments. Question; Would it be a conflict of interest for Mayor Leeper if she acted as mayor of the Town of Drummond and at the same time, PHEP Coordinator for the county? County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw indicated that there is no blanket conflict of interest here; and if one arose, the coordinator could recuse themselves from taking any action. Chairperson Slaughter closed the session to discuss personnel matters (for privacy reasons) within the applications. The session was then reopened to the public by Chairperson Slaughter. Commissioner Hinkle moved to continue with Dustin Muhly for a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion and commented that it is bad public policy to change the PHEP Coordinator position in the middle of a pandemic. Commissioners Slaughter and Hinkle voted in favor of the motion and Commissioner Adler voted to oppose the motion. The motion carried. The Board and Dustin Muhly signed the agreement for the independent contractor position through June 30, 2021. Lari Walter attended.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of Granite County Hospital District, met with the Board and presented the monthly financial update. The financial report dated 8-4-2020 included the projected cash available \$375,000, projected deposits of \$221,000, accounts payable (\$150,000), and projected cash reserves of \$446,000 (38 days of operation). She presented an Administrator's Report dated 7-28-2020 and highlighted COVID-19 activities, nursing home activities, a few remaining items to finish CT scan building, CT scan is operating and studies are being done, and COVID relief funds will be used to upgrade x-ray equipment and a machine in the laboratory. She also presented reports on facility utilization, revenues, and accounts receivable.

The Board reviewed the draft agreement with the Philipsburg Marketing Group for the development of a new county website, including maintenance. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw reported that he had sent a draft agreement (consistent with intent of Board) to the Philipsburg Marketing Group and their attorney is reviewing it, but it has not yet been returned. The Board tabled the matter.

The Board was unable to consider the applications for appointment to the two vacancies on the Flint Creek Fire Service Area Board as no applications have been received to date. The Board tabled the matter.

County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw updated the Board on the litigation regarding the Bear Gulch Road and Mr. Richard Komberec. He reported that an answer has been received from Richard Komberec's attorney, which will require some answers, and the case is proceeding forward.

Correspondence: The Board received and accepted the resignation of Bill West as the Dam Tender for the Flint Creek Project effective August 31 2020. Commissioner Hinkle moved to advertise for a replacement and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Also, correspondence was received from

Triple Tree Engineering regarding the Drummond Water Tower project which noted that it will take \$16,047 to finish the project. Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper had previously requested PILT funds to complete the project. The Board agreed to consider the request during budget discussions. Elena Gagliano commented that PILT funds should be used for county purposes.

Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the July 28, 2020 minutes, as amended, and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Elena Gagliano commented that Zoom meetings should be recorded and it is difficult to have public comment on minutes if they are not considered public documents until they are approved.

Engineer Bill Lloyd with Great West Engineering and Jacob Pierson with Battle Ridge Builders met with the Board to discuss the dewatering plan for the Flint Creek Dam-Dam Face and Spillway Improvements-Project. The County has an existing agreement (on Board agenda in 2019) with Battle Ridge Builders to complete repair work at the dam this fall before freezing. The Board was not given much notice (less than a day) by the contractor so the meeting was not on the agenda, but the matters discussed were substantively administrative in nature. Further, the county attorney was of the position that time of was the essence for this meeting as the project needs to be done this construction season and any delays could cause serious safety issues. It was discussed that the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) has indicated that it will not review the dewatering plan until there is an engineer-stamped coffer dam plan and the FERC wants 30 days to review the plan. Bill Lloyd explained that the dewatering plan was submitted to the FERC last year and the FERC did not respond. The Board contacted FERC's Regional Engineer Douglas Johnson by speakerphone at the Portland Regional Office and Bill Lloyd explained that the new dewatering plan had been submitted to the FERC and that the drawdown inside the coffer dam is about 3½ feet, so people would not be submerged if the coffer dam were to fail, plus people would be standing on solid ground, so there is very little chance of danger to human life. Jacob Pierson presented a copy of the dewatering plan used last year, and noted that this coffer dam would include custom steel legs because of the area in which they would be working. Bill Lloyd again noted that the FERC had the opportunity to review the dewatering plan last year, but had no response. Commissioner Adler moved that Battle Ridge Builders start the project on Monday (August 10, 2020) and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Regarding the joints on the spillway which failed, Jacob Pierson responded that the joints will be sandblasted and a different material will be used to fill them; this is warranty work, at no charge, on work that was completed last year. Bill Lloyd noted that the material used on the spillway joints last year was a product authorized for that use. In order to facilitate this repair work on the dam to completed soon, the lake level would need to be lowered so that water was under the top lip of the spillway. Commissioner Adler moved to release 45 cfs through the generating plant and 20 cfs through the valve down the creek to effectuate this slight lowering of the lake level. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 3:30 p.m.