

September 22, 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 Commissioners Scott Adler and Charles Hinkle attending. Commissioner Bill Slaughter was absent this day. Commissioner Adler was selected as temporary chairperson. 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 to view the session and comment, and the public was also allowed to attend in person and provide comment.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt did not meet with the Board to give his report as the crew is shorthanded due to vacations and he was needed to run the loader. Commissioner Adler reported that the John Deere tractor/mower arrived with no back mower; the back mower is expected to be installed today by John Deere. The road crew continues to apply asphalt millings on county roads. Elena Gagliano provided public comment asking for Paul Alt to provide a weekly written report, but the Board disagreed that this should be required since plans change on a day to day basis.

Documents for the lease/purchase of the new 2020 International snow plow truck have not arrived. The Board agreed that the documents will be put on their meeting agenda when received.

The Board received notice that the Granite County Museum and Cultural Center in Philipsburg is not available on October 7, 2020 for the public meeting planned on the Flint Creek Project. The Board agreed to move the date to October 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. when the Granite County Museum in Philipsburg and the project engineer are both available.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.96 feet, according to the USGS lake level gage. The lake is approximately 6.48 inches below full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 31.5 cfs according to the USGS outflow gauge. Commissioner Hinkle moved to make no change in the outflow. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Dustin Muhly, county PHEP (Public Health Emergency Planning) Coordinator, met with the Board and reported that there are no active COVID-19 cases in Granite County; one person is in quarantine and one test is pending. Rapid testing should be available at the Granite County Medical Center soon, which will be helpful in identifying COVID-19 positive individuals so they can be properly handled. There are 75 active cases in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. He reminded people of the Flu Clinics scheduled for October 5th in Drummond at the Senior Center and October 7th in Philipsburg at the new fire hall. Both Flu Clinics are from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper requested more hand sanitizer in Drummond and Dustin Muhly said he will bring some today. Also, hand sanitizer has arrived at county schools from FEMA. Dustin Muhly requested to meet every

other week with the Board for a report, unless there is an outbreak of COVID-19 cases. The Board approved the request. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Granite County Board of Health met with Dr. Mark Ransford and Commissioners Scott Adler and Charles Hinkle present. Dr. William Reiter and Commissioner Bill Slaughter were absent. A quorum of the Board of Health was present. Dr. Ransford reported that he is working with the schools. It was agreed that this meeting not be on the agenda every week, but every other week, unless something arises. Public Comment from Elena Gagliano: Does COVID-19 transmit through aerosol droplets? Dr. Ransford said that he agrees that it does transmit that way, which is why masks are so important. He also noted that masks do not help with the forest fire smoke, which has been in the area recently. Elena Gagliano questioned why cloth masks are being required to prevent COVID-19 when such will not stop larger smoke particles from being breathed in when cloth masks are worn. Additionally, it was noted by the Board that there is a lot of hand sanitizer available in the county and it was agreed to hold onto it for now with flu season approaching. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper met with the Board to request additional funds to complete the Drummond Water Tower Project. Commissioner Slaughter attended only this agenda item through Zoom. Commissioner Adler had a question about some invoices that had been received by the Board previously on the project and Mayor Leeper explained the progress of the project. Commissioner Hinkle questioned the amount of labor on some bids. Mayor Gail Leeper explained that there are few companies who work on water towers. They now have a maintenance program on the tower and they are considering drilling a well. Mayor Leeper noted that there is \$23,938.00 remaining to be paid due to change orders on the project. Commissioner Slaughter stated that this is a good public policy safety project, as the water tower is used for fire suppression in the Town of Drummond. Commissioner Slaughter moved that the county give \$24,000 in PILT funds to finish Drummond's public safety water tower project. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. Commissioners Slaughter and Adler voted in favor of the motion and Commissioner Hinkle voted to oppose the motion. The motion carried. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw indicated that a formal, written resolution will be needed to get this expenditure in the PILT budget, and he would draft the written resolution. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Board considered the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Flint Creek Dam - Dam Face and Spillway Improvements Project with a date of September 11, 2020 as presented by Great West Engineering, which recommends approval of the certificate. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion effective September 11, 2020 and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Board considered Pay Application No. 3 (Final Payment) in the amount of \$51,204.04 for Battle Ridge Builders for the Flint Creek Dam - Dam Face and Spillway Improvements Project. Great West Engineering recommends that Pay Application No. 3 be approved.

Commissioner Hinkle moved for approval of Pay Application No. 3 (Final Payment) for Battle Ridge Builders LLC and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. This payment is required by the contract between the county and Battle Ridge Builders. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Scott Sylvester with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper attended.

The Board reviewed the rough draft of the response letter drafted on the Board's letterhead by County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's letter dated September 14, 2020. The response is not due until mid-November (November 13, 2020). Commissioner Hinkle moved to table a decision on the letter pending additional information from engineer Jeremiah Theys with Great West Engineering. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried.

Public Comment: 1) Elena Gagliano inquired whether the letter from Garlington, Lohn and Robinson would be on next week's agenda. The Board responded that it would be. 2) Julie Tulley telephoned the Board in support of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority. She requested that the county adopt a joint resolution as other counties have done. The Board agreed to do some research on the subject. She also complimented the Board on the hard work that they do all the time. 3) As an administrative action, DES/Safety Coordinator Jackie Bolster met with the Board and requested a signature for CARES Act reimbursement. Temporary Chairperson Scott Adler signed the document. 4) Jeremiah Theys with Great West Engineering of Helena contacted the Board and inquired what was wanted for the public meeting scheduled for October 15, 2020 regarding the Flint Creek Project. The Board responded that they would like documents outlining expenses, construction to date, future projects, revenue and recurring costs. Jeremiah Theys requested a copy of the revenue generated to date by the project.

Correspondence: 1) Letter from Boone Karlberg Attorneys regarding the estate of Norman V. Bohrnsen and the notice to the Granite County Commissioners issued by Judge Ray Dayton regarding a Court-Ordered Division of Property and a Brief in Support. The matter is currently scheduled for hearing on November 5, 2020. The letter was referred to Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Planning Director Linda Bouck. 2) Letter from County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw to attorney Katelyn Hepburn, representing the Georgetown Lake Homeowners Association, in response to the letter to Granite County dated September 9, 2020 regarding alleged deficiencies in a county internal policy and Georgetown Lake reservoir levels and outflow decisions August 2020.

Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes as presented and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 11:25 a.m.