

December 1, 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 were 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.

Scott Sylvester, reporter with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper, attended the majority of the session.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. He reported that the East Fork Road Project is set to go and he requested that County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw request and obtain letters from the two adjoining landowners along East Ford granting the county permission to widen the road as the excavation work may need to go onto private property. County Attorney Bradshaw indicated that the county should get easements from the two land owners to be recorded, and that he will draft the easement documents if the owners will consent. Paul Alt agreed to speak to the land owners and also determine where the county right-of-way is on the ground. Paul Alt noted that the land owners will get bids from three local contractors to do the work. He also noted that there will be a dumpster at the county-owned house at Hall today so that RC Cleaning Services can proceed with cleaning.

The Board discussed the draft Professional Services Agreement with Pavement Maintenance Solutions, Inc. of Columbia Falls for chip sealing some county roads in the next fiscal year. Paul Alt presented a list of 14 miles of roads that would benefit from chip sealing, primarily the roads where asphalt millings were laid this past summer. The Board discussed which roads are priorities with the most traffic and the anticipated budget that would be available for the chip sealing project. Commissioner Adler moved that the agreement be approved for eight miles of chip sealing and the proposed written agreement to such work. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted that the project had been publicly bid previously.

The Board discussed the purchase of chips for the chip sealing project in the summer of 2021. Paul Alt suggested that the existing two piles of chips should be surveyed to determine the volume of chips on hand. Commissioner Hinkle agreed to retain surveyor Hans Bohrnsen to survey the two piles of chips and to take a look at the boundaries of the county shop at Philipsburg. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.67 feet according to the USGS lake level gage. The lake is approximately 9.96 inches below full pool. The outflow is estimated at approximately 35 cfs. Commissioner Hinkle moved to make no change in the outflow and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

As an emergent matter, the Board contacted the Powell County Road Department by telephone regarding a damaged cattle guard on Dunkleberg Road in Powell County. There is sharp metal sticking up on the cattle guard which could damage tires and it needs to be repaired immediately to avoid damage to vehicular traffic. No one from Powell County returned the phone call today regarding this matter.

The Board discussed the annual gift of appreciation for all county employees. The Board agreed to purchase a ham from Huffman's Grocery in Philipsburg for each county employee on the motion of Commissioner Adler. Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeremy Aal met with the Board regarding his application to be a volunteer member of the Granite County Board of Health. The Board reviewed the application and conducted an informal interview for the position, which would be available January 1, 2021. Jeremy Aal reviewed the functions of the Board of Health, especially during the COVID epidemic. Discussion was held about the political aspects of the Board of Health and the coming vaccine. Scott Sylvester reported that people who are notified to be quarantined are not doing it. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw said that people can be charged criminally and he would speak again with the county public health department letting them know this. Discussion was held on the difference of people being "asked" to do something as opposed to being "told" to do something. Jeremy Aal related his opinion on the current epidemic, which he feels is not the plague originally thought to be. Commissioner Adler moved to appoint Jeremy Aal to the Granite County Board of Health effective January 1, 2021 and Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Zoom question: Can the time of Board of Health meetings be changed. Board response: Yes it can, by agreement of the Board of Health. Zoom question: Where will he get his information? Jeremy Aal responded that he is not a fully licensed physician, but he is studying current up-to-date information and studying evidence-based medicine. Elena Gagliano on Zoom inquired where Jeremy Aal gets his information. He responded that he gets his information from several sources of information (CDC, WHO and a Swedish medical organization, and various medical schools among other sources) and medicine is always changing. Scott Sylvester stated that this county is unique in that the general population is older. Jeremy Aal responded that he would not have gone into medicine if he did not care for all people. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the appointment of a Granite County representative to the Big Sky Rail Authority Board. Commissioner Hinkle moved to appoint Bill Slaughter as the county's representative on the Big Sky Rail Authority Board. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed solid waste fees and how the revenue generated by the fees supports the annual solid waste budget. The fees have not supported the budget for the past two years. Commissioner Adler reviewed the report of overages and noted that overage payments are \$4,000 short at this time. Scott Sylvester inquired what expenses are going up. The Board responded that tipping fees, trucking, fuel and insurance are all increasing in cost. The Board discussed raising the annual unit fee from \$125.00 to \$135.00. Treasurer Vicki Harding met with the Board and agreed that a proposed \$10.00 increase per unit would cover the solid waste budget. Commissioner Adler noted that the solid waste program should pay for itself and be run like a business. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw told the Board that a public hearing is required if the unit rate fee imposed on tax statements is under consideration to be raised. The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on the proposed annual unit increase of \$10.00 on December 22, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. after formally advertising a notice of public hearing in the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper on December 10, 2020 and December 17, 2020.

The Board considered a grant application for a RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) project. The Board discussed potential projects, including the Stony Creek Bridge or chip sealing roads which lead to the national forest. The Board noted that applications are due by January 14, 2021. The Board postponed any decision.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of the Granite County Hospital District, was unable to meet with the Board, but sent the monthly report for the Board's review. The financial report listed projected cash available of \$(108,589), projected deposits of \$297,000, accounts payable of \$(150,000), for projected cash reserves of \$38,411 (4 days of operation). Also included were a utilization report, a revenue analysis, a balance sheet, an accounts aging report and an administrator's report.

Planning Director Linda Bouck met with the Board regarding a building envelope alteration request for Lot 37 of Badger Bay Subdivision at Georgetown Lake. Linda Bouck explained that all the lots in Badger Bay have building envelopes on the plat. She presented a map of the proposed new location of Mr. Hackley's building envelope, which he is requesting be moved to the north, which is further from the road. She noted that the Badger Bay homeowners' association approves of this request. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the request as shown on the map and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. During discussion, Commissioner Slaughter inquired if the building envelope involves the well and drain field. Linda Bouck responded that those are separate from the building envelope. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Becky Mickey, Deputy Clerk and Recorder, met with the Board regarding the Continuation of Operations Plan (COOP) for the courthouse. She explained that there is no provision for working for the public if an employee is required to quarantine at home. A laptop computer could be configured to work with the county computer programs. She estimated that five laptops would make the major offices operable from home and work through the county server. She noted that while this is COVID related now, there is always the threat of a fire or an earthquake which could make the courthouse unusable. Commissioner Slaughter

indicated that he does not want to invest in something that would be obsolete in a short time. Becky Mickey responded that the laptop computers would be rotated through on the schedule for replacement, the same as other county computers. The Board noted that essential services must be made available to the public, even if it was not possible for employees to work from the courthouse. Commissioner Slaughter requested that Becky Mickey put together a written plan in conjunction with the county's IT contractor (DIS). Commissioner Hinkle inquired if the county information on the cloud could be accessed from any computer. Becky Mickey responded that the computer would need to have the same programs that the county uses. She noted that it would be several weeks for delivery if new laptops were ordered in an emergency. The Board agreed that the plan looked good and Becky Mickey agreed to return with a written plan that would be discussed in a noticed open meeting.

The Board discussed employee quarantine leave beyond the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Becky Mickey noted that the FFCRA allows for a maximum of 80 hours of paid leave without the employee having to use accumulated sick time or vacation leave. Commissioner Hinkle moved to use COVID relief funds for county employees under quarantine/isolation after the 80 hours of paid leave under the FFCRA hours are utilized. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

As an administrative action, the Board agreed to sell the junk 2001 Dodge pickup at the Drummond solid waste site, rather than have it hauled away by the county Junk Vehicle Program. The Board agreed that the truck had no value and agreed to sell it for \$300.00 to John Kendall, as he has a licensed wrecking facility.

The Board held the second reading of Granite County Ordinance No. 2020-1 Nuisance Dogs. There was no public comment. Commissioner Slaughter noted that the ordinance contains a sunset clause of one year, so that if it is not effective that it does not need to be continued. Commissioner Adler indicated that he is not in favor of the ordinance because of his concern that it will be used against people who do not like their neighbor, rather than against the nuisance dog. Commissioner Hinkle moved for the adoption of Ordinance 2020-1 Nuisance Dogs and Commissioner Slaughter seconded the motion. There was no public comment on the motion. Discussion was held regarding false reports and the sheriff's department investigation of these complaints. Commissioner Slaughter noted that the ordinance is at Sheriff Scott Dunkerson's request. Commissioners Slaughter and Hinkle voted in favor of the motion and Commissioner Adler voted to oppose the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comment: Mark Olson met with the Board regarding Pat Hughes' subdivision up Boulder Creek. Planning Director Linda Bouck attended. Mark Olson noted that he had previously spoken with Linda Bouck, who he believed said that no permanent structures were allowed on that ground. Mr. Olson indicated that he spent \$60,000 ten years ago to do a minor subdivision and Pat Hughes got it for nothing. Linda Bouck responded that Pat Hughes went before the planning board and it was a four-lot subdivision, which does not require notification of adjoining land owners. Also, Pat Hughes told the planning board that

the subdivision would be for recreational use only. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw suggested that this should be an agenda item with all of the facts presented before there is further discussion. Linda Bouck noted that in areas which are not mapped for floodplain, which is where the Hughes subdivision is located, that a floodplain permit cannot be issued. Mark Olson again stated that there was to be no permanent structures or permanent sanitation on the subdivision in question. Chairperson Slaughter said that the matter will be put on a future agenda when the facts are available.

Correspondence: Executive Assistant Mike Kahoe presented a letter to each Commissioner with a proposal for his continued employment utilizing a part-time on-call schedule. The Board agreed to put the proposal on the next regular meeting agenda for a decision.

The Board reviewed the draft minutes for November 24, 2020 regular session. The minutes for the November 24, 2020 regular session were approved as presented on the motion of Commissioner Hinkle and seconded by Commissioner Slaughter. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 2:30 p.m.