

**December 7, 2020**

**The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in special 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 Board agreed that the session would be closed to the public because it may involve litigation strategy.**

**The purpose of the special session was to hold mediation between Granite County and Flint Creek Hydroelectric LLC with retired District Judge Ed McLean as mediator. Attending for Flint Creek Hydro were Roger Kirk, Ben Singer, Emma Kirk and attorney Matthew Williams.**

**The session opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**The Commission stayed in the Commission Office and the Flint Creek Hydroelectric LLC people moved to and stayed in the district courtroom. Mediator Judge Ed McLean moved between the parties with proposals and counter-proposals.**

**Flint Creek Hydroelectric LLC proposed a 32-year lease (subject to Montana and federal law) of the dam with county maintaining its current liability insurance coverage and with the Granite County being paid certain royalties by Flint Creek Hydroelectric. Flint Creek Hydroelectric will draft the proposed lease agreement and forward it to the Board for their review and also the review of the Granite County Attorney. After 32-years, the lease will terminate and Granite County will control the dam and then own the hydro-electric facilities as well. The Board agreed to consider this offer after receiving the proposed written lease agreement and after holding a public hearing.**

**Any agreements or proposals resulting from this mediation will be on a future public Commission agenda for Board action.**

**The mediation concluded at 2:00 p.m.**