

January 12, 2021

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 Charles Hinkle, Commissioners Blanche McLure and Scott Adler attending. Also attending were County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Clerk Sue Antonioli. 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. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. He presented the 2020 Annual Projection Report for Chairperson Hinkle's signature. This is a yearly report required by DEQ for Open-cut Mining at the county's three gravel pits. There was no mining for 2020. The 310- permit for the project along Rock Creek had been applied for by the County, and we're just waiting on the decision by the Granite Conservation District. The Philipsburg dump scales have been repaired as ice was building up underneath and needed removed. Paul Alt stated that currently the biggest hurdle the road crew is facing is the ice build-up around the county.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.52 feet according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 11.04 inches below full pool. The CFS reading was not available at the time of the meeting, but has been set at 25 CFS over the past weeks. Commissioner Hinkle moved to keep outflow at the current level, the same (approximately 25 CFS) for this week. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. During public comment, Chuck Stoke attending by Zoom agreed with the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board held the second reading of Resolution 2021-1 "A Granite County Resolution Establishing Regular Commission Meeting Dates, And Regular Courthouse Office Hours For Calendar Year 2021." Commissioner McLure moved to accept Resolution 2021-2. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Elena Gagliano, attending by Zoom, pointed out during public comment that all of the resolutions being discussed during the meeting were not posted on the county's website prior to the meeting. The County Attorney noted that the resolutions were posted the previous week on the county's website (still there). There was no further public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board held the second reading of Resolution 2021-2 "A Granite County Resolution Establishing Mileage, Lodging, And Per Diem Rates For Business Travel For Calendar Year 2021. Commissioner McLure moved to accept Resolution 2021-2 as is, with one change of lowering the dinner rate reimbursement from \$23 to \$18. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. During public comment Elena Gagliano stated that she agreed with Commissioner McLure on lowering the dinner rate. There being no further comment, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board held the second reading of Resolutions 2021-3 “A Granite County Resolution Establishing The Daily Rate And Daily Rate Of Credit And Credit For Incarceration For Calendar Year 2021. Commissioner Adler moved to accept Resolution 2021-3. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2021-4 “A Granite County Resolution Amending County Resolution 2020-20; Increasing the Annual Base Unit Fee for the Solid Waste District”. This proposed resolution clarifies the timing of billing as stated in Resolution 2020-20. There was no public comment. The resolution will be placed on next week’s agenda for the second reading.

The Board reviewed county claims for December 2020. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the claims with the exceptions of RDO’s claim for \$1972 and Front Line’s for \$1063, both being repair quotes. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Adler noted that Paul Alt talked with both companies and they are both waiving these invoiced costs.

Scott Sylvester, reporter with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper, joined the session. Also joining was Clerk and Recorder, Sarah Graham.

The Board held a work session on the County Commission Assistant’s job description. During the session the Board reviewed a current duties list dated December 4, 2020 that former assistant, Mike Kahoe had presented. The Board went over this list and made slight alterations to it. A formal, amended job description will be created if the Board determines whether or not to hire a replacement employee for this position. This work session was not finished at noon, so the Board determined to adjourn for lunch but to take the matter up later.

The Board held an initial discussion on the possibility of a Second Deputy Clerk & Recorder in lieu of having a Commission Assistant. Sarah Graham joined the session along with Carol Bohrsen and Claudette Parke. Commissioner Adler asked why an assistant to the Commission can’t earn more than 90% of an elected official’s salary and had other concerns regarding file location and asked who this person would be working for, the Clerk & Recorder or the County Commission? In public comment, Elena Gagliano asked a question regarding the job duties list dated December 4, 2020. The question was answered, and Elena Gagliano was e-mailed a copy of the list by the Granite County Attorney. It was generally decided by the Commission to have a continuation of this discussion once they have it nailed down as to what the position will be. More discussion was tabled until next week. During Public Comment Claudette Parke stated that the Commissioner’s Assistant duties list was extensive and whether or not the position is an Assistant to the Commission or a Second Deputy Clerk and Recorder, these duties still need to be done.

Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper met with the Board to discuss the need to establish joint sessions again between the Board, and the Towns of Philipsburg and Drummond.

Philipsburg Mayor Daniel Reddish joined the session in support of resuming these sessions. There are county issues that are overlapping between these jurisdictions. Mayor Gail Leeper and Mayor Daniel Reddish hope to get back to doing these sessions on a quarterly basis as they gave a lot of good information and notice to the public. The ambulance is a huge concern with differences between Drummond and Philipsburg. Chairperson Hinkle stated that COVID-19 has caused a lot of issues with meetings. Elena Gagliano, participating by Zoom, stated that life goes on outside of COVID-19 and that other advisory boards around the state are meeting using various means, and that the advisory boards should resume meeting again here in Granite County. Elena Gagliano noted that such boards don't have to meet in-person. She also noted that there are a lot of legislative bills that will affect towns and counties, and these need to be discussed in open meetings in a timely manner. This is the new norm, and the county needs to adapt. Mayor Gail Leeper will research which town buildings or fire halls have wireless internet into order to hold these meetings, and she will get back to the Board next month.

Public Comment: County Attorney missed the earlier discussion on proposal for a second deputy Clerk & Recorder as he had a CPT Team Meeting via Zoom, and a recap of that discussion was given by the Board.

Correspondence: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Letter of Support of the County's current RAC grant application received January 11, 2021 was acknowledged and briefly discussed—this support letter will be included with the County's RAC grant application; Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw read an e-mail from Elena Gagliano dated January 8, 2021 asking about the work session today, and questioned whether people attending by Zoom were being granted equal access to the meeting (low speaker volume issues) and to documents. County Attorney Bradshaw responded that the Board is attempting to work out the issues with the use of Zoom as new Chromebook devices have been ordered for Commissioners Adler and McLure, and that the County Attorney provides, typed written clarification on Zoom chat when those speaking during the meeting cannot be heard on Zoom.

Commissioner McLure moved to accept the January 5, 2021 minutes with one correction. The draft minutes stated that the dinner rate for business travel be lowered from \$23 to \$17, and this should have been \$18 (not \$17). Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 2:09 p.m.