

January 19, 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 and Commissioner Blanche McLure. Commissioner Scott Adler joined portions of the session by phone. 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 internet-based computer program available for 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.

Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes and DES Coordinator Jackie Bolster, and Elena Gagliano joined the session by Zoom.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. A high wind at the Drummond dump blew some shingles off the building and repairs are underway. A gentleman had contacted Paul Alt pertaining to closing a portion of Edwards Gulch Road. Paul Alt told the gentleman that he would need to meet with the Board on any road closures. The crew is spreading sand and dealing with ice. Paul Alt will contact the Granite Conservation District Board to see what the hold-up is on the Rock Creek 310 permit. During Public Comment Elena Gagliano attending by Zoom asked the Commission if there was a written report today from Paul Alt and encouraged the Commission to require a weekly written report as it has not been required in the past. Commissioner Hinkle stated there was no written report given from Paul Alt that the Commission has never requested a written report from the Road Supervisor, but the Commission determined to have an agenda item on this request for the following week.

Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.53 feet according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 11.64 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 and it appears to still be at 25 CFS for outflows. Commissioner McLure moved to keep outflow at the current level, the same (approximately 25 CFS) for this week. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Scott Sylvester, reporter with the *Philipsburg Mail* newspaper, joined the session.

The Board reviewed the final CARES Act reimbursement request (LGE Certification Form) completed by DES coordinator, Jackie Bolster. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw explained what the final purchases were for case management software for the County Attorney's Office for \$11,850.00 as this amount was approved by the Commission after being on the agenda and also a laptop for \$894.00, for Victim/Witness Advocate, TJ Viotor, as she has to attend State meetings by Zoom due to COVID-19. Commissioner McLure moved to approve the final reimbursement request and sign the LGE Certification Form. Commissioner

Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper joined the session by Zoom.

Dustin Muhly, Granite County PHEP Coordinator was unable to attend the session but emailed the Commission his report. Granite County has four active cases. Montana has 4,956 active cases, 1093 deaths and 89,576 total cases. The county health department will begin giving vaccinations on Wednesdays on Philipsburg and Mondays in Drummond. As soon as they get a solid confirmation on the vaccine delivery from the State, they will begin planning clinics based on the amount of vaccine received. They are currently working on Phase 1B recipients.

There have been no new applications for the open County Board of Health position. The position will continue to be advertised in the Philipsburg Mail. Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes stated that Governor Gianforte has lifted mandates on business curfews and capacity caps and size of public gatherings. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw reiterated to the Board that they have the power to make stricter restrictions for Granite County. Commissioner Adler moved to make a County Board of Health order in concurrence with the Governor's new directives going into effect January 15, 2021 regarding the lifting of the business hour restrictions and capacity limits. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The Board reviewed an email from Elena Gagliano on an article she had forwarded about California health officials calling for a pause on the Moderna Vaccine due to reports of allergic reactions. Scott Sylvester reported that an article in this week's Philipsburg Mail stated that Granite County has seen no adverse reaction to the Moderna Vaccine. Chad Lanes, Tri-County Sanitarian, and Jackie Bolster, assistant in County Public Health Department, concurred that the State of Montana advises the county of any vaccine concerns going on in Montana.

Later in the day, Jackie Bolster, reported that the Moderna vaccines (40 of them) promised this week were not going to come and County Public Health Department only had 2 vials of Moderna vaccine remaining (approximately 20 vaccines).

The Board held the second 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. Commissioner McLure moved to accept Resolution 2021-4. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board held a discussion on Supplemental Pay for Essential County Employees Who Stayed On The Job During the COVID-19 Pandemic. This item had previously been on the agenda for the December 8th meeting and is being revisited as there is a new Commission. The County has a CARES Act fund with approximately \$300,000 in it. At the December meeting the Commissioners moved to give county employees a supplemental bonus up to \$1000 subject to an advertised public hearing (budget amendment hearing) to be held before

the Board. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that the Commissioners have discretion over these funds and if elected officials are to receive any funds they will need to convene and receive the recommendation of the Compensation Board with approval of at least 2 Commissioners. Commissioner Hinkle stated that he will not support any decision for supplemental pay to county employees. “This is the public’s money and should be saved for emergencies.” Commissioner McLure also stated she is not in support of this. “What about other employees in the county? How can you give it to just county employees and not others working in the county that are essential such as the town crew, hospital and school staff?” Commissioner Adler, attended by phone, moved to approve \$1000 supplemental pay for essential county employees who stayed on the job during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was no second so the motion died so there will be no public hearing on a budget amendment unless decided otherwise in the future. During public comment Elena Gagliano asked if there were any employees that didn’t work and if so, how many? To the Board’s knowledge there were no employees that refused to work. Elena Gagliano also stated that she agreed with Commissioners McLure and Hinkle.

The Board held another discussion on the County Commission Assistant/Second Deputy Clerk and Recorder Position, as to what alternative it should be. The matter was on the agenda for discussion only. Commissioner Adler, attending by phone, likes the way it is at present and Commissioner Hinkle thinks it should be a second deputy. Commissioner McLure would agree on it being an Administrative Assistant and not an Executive Assistant; and she went on to explain the differences in how each alternative would be paid (deputy paid as a percentage of Clerk and Recorder and Administrative Assistant would be paid on county pay matrix). She is in favor of the position being an Administrative Assistant at a Grade 11. There was more discussion on cost savings between the position being an Administrative Assistant or a Second Deputy. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated it was more about getting the right person for the job rather than the job title itself. The Commissioners also reviewed an email dated January 18, 2021 from Susanne Browning, on this subject in which Sarah Graham, Clerk & Recorder, thoroughly responded to the questions presented in the letter. During public comment, Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper stated that she had polled six counties similar to Granite County in population on this subject. All six counties employ an individual in the Clerk and Recorder’s office to handle the Commission duties. The Commission will revisit this next week with a draft job description in hand and make a final decision at that time.

The Board held a discussion on giving interim Commission Assistant Sue Antonioli a temporary pay increase. Commissioner Adler moved to give Sue Antonioli \$18.41 per hour (first year deputy salary) while assuming Mike Kahoe’s position (interim basis until position is filled or alternate position is created and filled) and to make it retroactive January 1, 2021. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. During public comment Elena Gagliano stated that the Commission should wait until they have a completed job description and then they would know what she is assuming. There was no further public comment. The motion carried unanimously by all three commissioners.

Jeremiah Theys from Great Western Engineering joined the session by Zoom to review Task Order No. 1 with the Commission. This order is to provide general engineering services upon request for Flint Creek Dam. As compensation for these services the county will pay hourly rates plus expenses for an estimated total amount up to \$5000 per request. Commissioner McLure motioned to accept Task Order No. 1. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Philipsburg Mayor Dan Reddish and Town of Philipsburg's Public Works Director Sam Dennis met with the Board to request letters of support on two grants the town is applying for, desludging on the sewer lagoons and road improvements on the road to Fred Burr Lake. Elena Gagliano, giving public comment, requested the matters be set on the noticed agenda the next week so the public could comment. As these are decision items, they will be placed on next week's agenda. Scott Sylvester reported to the Board after talking to hospital CEO Maria Stoppler that there have been no adverse reactions with Moderna vaccination beyond what is expected in Granite County. None of the hospital's vaccine batches have been from the California batches.

Correspondence: The Board noted receipt of a letter from the Montana Department of Transportation notifying them of their BaRSAA/HB 473 (Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Program) Fuel Tax Allocation for 2021. The Board also noted the letter received from Susanne Browning involving the proposed, second Deputy Clerk & Recorder position which Sarah Graham (Clerk & Recorder) responded. Lastly, the Board noted the e-mail from Elena Gagliano that was discussed in the Board of Health Meeting.

Commissioner McLure moved to accept the January 12, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 1:43 p.m.