

**January 5, 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 Commissioners Scott Adler, Charles Hinkle, and Blanche McLure 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.**

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

**The Board was reorganized and Chuck Hinkle was elected Chairperson (Presiding Officer) of the Granite County Commission for 2021 on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner McLure. There was no public comment. The motion carried.**

**Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Manager Paul Alt met with the Board and gave his report. Paul reported on the rip rap project near Stony Creek Bridge along Rock Creek. Applications for the necessary permits have been made. The crew is sanding ice as there is not much snow to plow and doing general equipment maintenance. Newly elected Commissioner Blanche McLure stated that Paul Alt's position is appointed by the Commissioner's and reminded him that he must take the Oath of Office and the form be filed with the Clerk & Recorder. Paul Alt indicated that he would do that soon.**

**Georgetown Lake level was reported at 6,428.55 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 outflow is estimated at approximately 25 cfs. Commissioner Hinkle moved to keep the dam at the present level. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Chad Lanes, Tri-County Sanitarian joined the session.**

**Dustin Muhly, PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) Coordinator, met with the Board and gave the COVID-19 update. There are currently four active cases in Granite County, 162 recovered cases and two deaths. Cases are significantly lower than in November, but we can't let our guard down. Granite County received 100 Moderna vaccinations and these are being distributed per the CDC's recommendations. Phase 1A vaccines are for senior care, sheriff and fire departments, 1B vaccines will be for schools, daycare centers and essential workers. Dustin Muhly noted that the county still has lots of hand sanitizer on hand and it will be distributed to other jurisdictions in need.**

**County Board of Health Updates: Board of Health met next with only the three Commissioners attending as Board of Health members as Dr. Reiter was not there and there is currently an open seat. Chad Lanes stated during this session that he feels the County Board of Health should continue to follow the Governor's mandates until there is a change.**

County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that the current County Board of Health order is consistent with the current applicable Governor's Directives regarding face coverings and other rules. It was further noted that Governor Gianforte may be rescinding the face covering mandate soon. During public comment, Elena Gagliano, who was attending by Zoom, asked who else was attending by Zoom and she expressed her concern that the Covid-19 cases in the county are not being kept current on the county website. Elena Gagliano also expressed concern that the two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) were not FDA approved yet. Dustin Muhly stated that the county is updating Covid-19 numbers on the Granite County Public Health's Facebook page and the FDA has currently authorized the two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) for emergency use. The Board reviewed Jeremy Aal's resignation letter dated December 23, 2020, noting the need for a fifth Board of Health member. Commissioner Adler moved to accept the resignation with a second from Commissioner McLure. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Adler mentioned that the Board had asked Chad Lanes to attend the Board of Health meetings when they are held, Chad Lanes stated that was acceptable.

Commissioner Adler moved to re-advertise the Board of Health vacancy in the Philipsburg Mail. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2021-1: "A Granite County Resolution Establishing Regular Meeting Dates, And Regular Courthouse Office Hours For Calendar Year 2021." There was no public comment.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2021-2: "A Granite County Resolution Establishing Mileage, Lodging, And Per Diem Rates For Business Travel for Calendar Year 2021." During public comment, Commissioner McLure stated that she felt the \$23 dinner allowance should be lowered to \$18. Elena Gagliano, attending via Zoom, agreed with Commissioner McLure, and there was no other public comment.

The Board held the first reading of Resolution 2021-3: "A Granite County Resolution Establishing The Daily Rate And Daily Rate Of Credit For Incarceration For Calendar Year 2021." There was no public comment.

Jeremiah Theys from Great West Engineering joined the session by Zoom to discuss a plan for Great West's involvement with the commission going forward for 2021 and upcoming projects. Jeremiah Theys summarized the projects needing done this year. All three Commissioners were in general agreement that Great West's services would continue to be used as there is currently a five-year on-call agreement in place between the county and Great West. The three Commissioners also believed that the Great West's services regarding the Flint Creek Project would need to continue to advise the Board even if Flint Creek Hydro LLC takes over the dam facilities via a lease. It was noted that a formal lease agreement has not been signed yet and has not even been received yet by the county from Flint Creek Hydro LLC. It was noted by County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw that Great West may not be the engineer of record under the lease agreement, but he concurred with the Board that Great

West's services would still be needed in some capacity. The DSSMR report is due by March 31, 2021. A walk through with contractors on the recent dam face and spillway repairs will need to be made this year as well. Earthquake analysis and tabletop exercise is postponed until 2022 due to Covid-19. Jeremiah Theys encouraged the Board that County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw should be the new point of contact for Granite County with FERC since Mike Kahoe just retired. County Attorney Bradshaw agreed, and the Board agreed as well. Jeremiah Theys also mentioned the county has contracted with Dowl Engineering of Billings to complete the Part 12D Inspection this year.

Maria Stoppler, CEO/DON of Granite county Hospital District joined the meeting by Zoom and presented the monthly financial report. October was an outstanding month for collections. CAT scans and ER visits are keeping numbers up. The PPL Small Business loan was forgiven. Utilization has come back up and the hospital is holding its own. Maria Stoppler explained how the vaccination process was working in Granite County and is being administered per the CDC's recommendations.

As an administrative matter, the Board discussed the need for each Commissioner to have an I-pad, especially to participate by Zoom for public commission meetings. The county paid for Commissioner Hinkle's I-pad when he came into office two years ago. By motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner McLure, the Board unanimously voted to purchase two I-pads, one for Commissioner Adler and one for commissioner McLure for use during commission business.

Scott Hazelton, Powell County Planning Director, and Carl Hamming, new Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Planning Director (formerly of Powell County) joined the meeting by Zoom to discuss Tri-County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Grant. Linda Bouck, Granite County Planning Director attended. Grants are available through the state for pre-disaster mitigation, evacuation and response plans in case of an event with a 15% tri county match. There are more points applied in the grant process for larger jurisdictions. Commissioner Hinkle stated that this may fall under the jurisdiction of the FMAC Committee. Linda Bouck is not supportive of one plan if the county has to buy in over three jurisdictions. Elena Gagliano, a member of the FMAC Committee stated that the Committee needs to meet and that she agrees with Linda Bouck.

During the public comment period the Commission listened by Zoom to a portion of Governor Gianforte's press release on COVID-19, including vaccines and also face covering requirements. There was general discussion on filling Mike Kahoe's position. The Commissioners decided to have a work session during next week's meeting to work on an amended job description for the Commission's Executive Assistant position. The Board also wants to initially discuss, on next week's meeting agenda, the option of creating a second Clerk & Recorder Deputy position that would take over many of the administrative duties of the Executive Assistant, but this agenda item would just be an initial discussion. The Board received notice of a letter from the Granite County Hospital District's Chair Jim Waldbillig. The Board had not received the letter yet, but Scott Sylvester of the Philipsburg Mail had a copy of the letter. The letter invited a Commission's representative to attend the

**Hospital District's Board meeting the last Tuesday of the month. It was agreed that Chairperson Hinkle would attend and that he and Commissioner McLure would rotate going to upcoming Hospital District Board meetings, as needed.**

**The Board reviewed the draft minutes for the December 22, 2020 regular session. The minutes were approved as presented on the motion of Commissioner Adler and second by Commissioner McLure. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.**

**The session adjourned at 1:48 p.m.**