

January 26, 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, Commissioner Blanche McLure and Commissioner Scott Adler attending. Also attending were County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Clerk Sue Antonioli. The Board observed a moment of silence in honor of Mike Kahoe, longtime Commission Assistant, who passed away on January 23, 2021. 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 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.

Elena Gagliano joined the session by Zoom.

Road and Bridge Superintendent/Solid Waste Paul Alt was not able to attend today's session. Paul Alt had given a verbal report to Commissioner Adler who conveyed that brief update. In regards to the agenda item regarding requiring Paul Alt to provide weekly written reports, the Board discussed this and Commissioners Adler and Hinkle expressed their opinion that such was not needed and would just be a burden, and that Paul Alt could be contacted by phone generally at any time. Commissioner Adler then moved to not require Paul Alt to give weekly written reports. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

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 outflow. Commissioner McLure moved to keep outflow at the current level 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, and Philipsburg Mayor Dan Reddish joined the session.

The Board discussed the Town of Philipsburg's Sludge Proposal Project. Philipsburg Mayor Dan Reddish stated that the bags of sludge removed at the sewer lagoon last summer will either be going to Missoula or placed in a repository at Black Pine and that the repository was a better option than trucking the bags to Missoula. After further discussion, Commissioner Adler moved to provide a letter of support to the Long-Range Planning Appropriations Subcommittee in support of the town of Philipsburg's Sludge Disposal Grant Application. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the Town of Philipsburg's Fred Burr Municipal Watershed Road Rehabilitation Project. Improvements to the Fred Burr road and areas around the lake are

crucial to maintaining the Town of Philipsburg's public drinking system. Commissioner Adler moved to provide a letter of support to the Resource Advisory Committee in support of the Town of Philipsburg's Fred Burr Municipal Watershed Road Rehabilitation Grant Application. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The Unofficial, Proposed Montana House Bill Draft to Add Pension and Other Benefits for Volunteer EMTs/Ambulance Drivers was discussed. Commissioner Hinkle stated that the idea for this bill originated with this Commission. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw was working with House Representative Jedediah Hinkle and the bill drafter to suggest additions and changes. The bill is an act to revise current laws which would allow volunteer emergency medical care providers to receive pension and other benefits under the Volunteer Firefighter's Compensation Act, and allowing a county to deposit a portion of its 911 funding to provide for volunteer emergency care provider pensions, among several other things. The Commission will get copies of this bill to Drummond Ambulance Association President Frank Prince and Philipsburg Volunteer Association President Patrick Little. Commissioner Hinkle will take a copy to the Granite County Hospital District Meeting. The Commission generally agreed with the provisions in the draft bill and will keep updated with the process.

Granite County Planner Linda Bouck joined the session. Jo Durgin and her attorney Julie Sirrs joined the session by Zoom.

The Board reviewed a letter from Julie Sirrs, attorney for Jo Durgin, outlining a proposal relating to recent discovery that the county shop in Philipsburg on the school hill encroaches on real property that Jo Durgin recently purchased. Two map diagrams from Jo Durgin's surveyor showing the affected area were also reviewed. The proposal states that Jo Durgin would transfer or grant an easement to the County for that portion of land occupied by the shop in exchange for the County not objecting to the quiet title action Jo Durgin plans to bring related to this project, move the existing gate in order to allow Jo Durgin access to her property, and paying all the costs (original, written proposal stated half but this has now changed to all fees as Julie Sirrs stated a fee simple transfer is anticipated instead of a reversionary easement) associated with any survey related to this transfer. County Planner Linda Bouck stated that she is not in favor of an easement and would rather see it be deeded to the county with a boundary line adjustment survey. Commissioner Adler stated that he is not in favor of moving the gate as large equipment needs to enter through the gate to get to the shop and be able to turn around. There was general agreement among the Commission for the proposal as a transfer with a boundary line adjustment. The Commission will make a site visit with County Survey Reviewer Hans Bohrnsen and possibly Ken Jenkins (Jo Durgin's surveyor) to look at how moving the gate might affect county operations. Julie Sirrs will send a more finalized proposal to the county soon. This item will be placed on the February 9, 2021 agenda for more discussion.

Clerk and Recorder Sarah Graham joined the session.

During another short discussion on whether to hire a Second Deputy Clerk & Recorder in lieu of an Administrative Assistant to the Commission, Commissioner Adler stated that he is in support of leaving the job title as it currently is as an Administrative Assistant as he believes this arrangement has worked well in the past. Commissioner McLure moved to amend the job position and job title from Executive Administrative Assistant to Deputy Clerk and Recorder, Assistant to the Commission. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. During public comment, Carol Bohrnsen asked what is the benefit of this? Commissioner McLure explained that historically, prior to Mike Kahoe being hired, this position has always been under the umbrella of the Clerk and Recorder's office. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw and Commissioner McLure explained how the pay structure is different for an Executive Assistant versus a Deputy Clerk and Recorder. County Attorney Bradshaw didn't see any practical difference in how the position would be handled whether it was called Admirative Assistant or Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Assistant to the Commission. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw mentioned that Puiggari Consulting Services is willing to help the county with Human Resource issues. She has already presented a draft agreement and will be present to explain the proposal at next week's meeting. Chairperson Hinkle called for a vote on the motion to establish the Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Assistant to the Commission position. The motion passed with Commissioners Hinkle and McLure voting for it, and Commissioner Adler dissenting. The pay would be as set by law. The matter of the Consulting Services Agreement was tabled until the following week when Michele Puiggari could attend by Zoom to explain her draft agreement.

Commissioner McLure and County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw worked on a Draft job description this past week for Administrative Assistant OR Second Deputy Clerk and Recorder, Assistant to the Commission and presented it to the Board for review. Commissioner Adler moved to adopt the description as Second Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Assistant to the Commission. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously. After discussing advertising for the position Commissioner McLure moved to advertise the position both internally and externally at the same time with a deadline for applications being February 19, 2021 at 5 p.m. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Eafe Parke from the Tri-County Fair Board joined the meeting by phone. He would like one of the Commissioners to attend the Board meeting the evening of February 4 2021 for informational purposes. One Commissioner from Deer Lodge and Powell Counties will be there. Commissioner Adler will try and attend the meeting even though it's short notice. Commissioner Hinkle asked if there was any way they could Zoom the meeting or call in by phone, and this did not appear to be an option. Elena Gagliano questioned whether it was legal to make such decisions during public comment, and the County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw responded that a Commissioner attending a Tri-County Fair Board meeting is not a matter of significant public interest.

Correspondence: None

Commissioner Adler moved to accept the January 19, 2021 minutes. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

The session adjourned at 1:14 p.m.