

April 20, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in a 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 Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, who attended a portion of the agenda items set for the day, and Assistant Billie Ann Kulaski. 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). The session was livestreamed through the Zoom internet-based program available for the public to view the session and comment. The public was also allowed to attend in person and provide comment. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance.

The following attended all or a portion of the regular meeting agenda items: Scott Sylvester, reporter with the *Philipsburg Mail* joined the session in-person as well as Road and Bridge Superintendent / Solid Waste Manager, Paul Alt; Local Contractor, Dave Kesler; Granite County Courthouse Custodian Janeen Bonney; Granite County Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Mickey; Braiden Burns & Austin Rath from Meadowlark Search, Inc.; Granite County Treasurer, Vicki Harding; Eagle Ambulance CEO, Katherine Hauptman, accompanied by Robert Reed and Dawn Hauptman; Philipsburg Town Councilperson DuWayne Ulrich; and Jordan White. Attending via Zoom were; Public Health Director of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Leigh Ann Holmes; Powell County Tobacco Prevention Specialist & PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson; Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Dustin Muhly; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper; Healthy Granite County Network Director, Kayla Sanders; Fisheries Biologist with the MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Brad Liermann; Chuck Stokke, a local resident at Georgetown Lake; As well as other members of the general public including Elena Gagliano.

ROAD AND BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT/SOLID WASTE MANAGER WEEKLY REPORT: Paul Alt joined the Commissioners and requested that Commission Chairperson Chuck Hinkle sign off on various encroachment permits across the County. Paul Alt then discussed some issues of putting in rip rock on Rock Creek Road and stated that residents would prefer that the Road Department put in permits and move the sand bar in the fall of 2021 to change the creek channel. Commissioner Hinkle asked Paul for more information concerning a person that fell into the compactor at the Solid Waste Department. Paul assured the Commission that the person that fell is doing okay and they continued to discuss different options to prevent this from happening again in the future. Commissioner Hinkle proposed putting in a gate that prohibits people from backing up too close to the compactor. Paul agreed that they could place swing gates that are approximately the height of a tailgate to enable people to still unload garbage into the dump and to allow equipment to access the area as needed. Paul is going to research the issue further and get back to the Commission with his results. Paul also provided an update on the project on Southwest Main in Drummond, stating that it would cost approximately \$7000 for materials to patch the road. Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper, joined the conversation via Zoom stating that she spoke with Montana State Representative Mark Sweeney about the SW Main Street Project as well

as Headwaters to try and locate funding. The Commissioners requested that Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski add the SW Main Street Project as well as the Stoney Creek Bridge Project, Moose Lake Gravel Pit, and potential Chip Seal Projects to a list of needed infrastructure projects in the County to submit to Senator Jon Tester's Office for requested funding under the Infrastructure Bill that recently came out of White House.

The session was interrupted by a phone call from a citizen concerned about an inmate in the Granite County Jail. The Commissioners provided her with the information for the Granite County Sherriff's Office as well as Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw's Office to remedy the situation.

GEORGETOWN LAKE LEVEL OUTFLOW: The lake level was reported at 6428.33 feet according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 14.04 inches below full pool. Commissioner Adler stated that he recently spoke with Paul Tallon of Flint Creek Hydro LLC, and he stated that they needed to decrease the flow because they had a large air bubble and have increased the flow slowly back up to 40 CFS. Fisheries Biologist with the MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Brad Liermann joined the session via Zoom, and explained that after reviewing the report from Dave Amman of the Montana DNRC, using 92% of normal lake inputs, and the existing outflow of 40 CFS there shouldn't be any problems. He continued that if snowpack ends up dropping and it's a dry couple of weeks and the outlook starts looking like the 70% of normal inputs model than the lake is going to be pretty short on water running at 40 CFS. Brad went on to say that after speaking with his boss Pat Saffel, that they would like to see the Commission shoot for the 6428.5 foot lake elevation mark by May 31st this year which is what is dictated by the license. Local lake resident, Chuck Stokke then joined the conversation via Zoom explaining that he thinks the Commission is in a good spot and he would take the outflow down some to where it is holding its own for a while and utilize the next month to let the lake fill. Commissioner Hinkle agreed and stated he thinks we should leave it where it is this week.

Public Comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking for more expansive introductions of the people speaking, so members of the public watching understand who they are and what their interest is. She also provided concerns with technical difficulties with the sound on Zoom. Commissioner Hinkle responded that he just received a new Chromebook and is learning how to use it, so he is asking for patience. The outflow has been set at 40 CFS over the past week and the outflow will remain the same as there was no vote to modify

GRANITE COUNTY MAINTENANCE PROJECTS UPDATE WITH DAVE KESLER; Local contractor, Dave Kesler joined the Commissioners with Granite County Courthouse Custodian, Janeen Bonney, to discuss necessary repairs to the Courthouse Dome. Dave Kesler brought a sample of the copper he is proposing be used for the project explained the pros and cons of using copper versus tin. He also discussed the importance of this project to him as a resident of the County and wanting to support it and having it done right. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw joined the conversation advising the Commissioners that this is a project that they will need to put out for competitive public bids since it will likely be over \$80,000 to complete. Commissioner Adler moved to start taking bids to fix the

Granite County Courthouse Dome using copper as the primary material and with the County Attorney drafting the bid notice. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously. Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw will draft the necessary documentation to have the bid opening on May 11th at 9:30 A.M.

Granite County Courthouse Custodian, Janeen Bonney provided an updated on the upstairs bathroom. She explained that a plumber was able to come look at things and found that there is not a leak. The issue with the floor seems to be that the building must be settling or shifting, and the one floor board that is popping up above the vault as the vault is not settling with the rest of the building. She continued, by explaining that as the Commissioners move forward with the ADA projects and replacing the bathrooms upstairs this issue will be remedied. It appears this issues may have been known by past county commissioners.

SARAH GRAHAM, GRANITE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER, PROPOSED USE OF CARES ACT FUNDS TO DIGITIZE PROPERTY RECORDS; BRAIDEN BURNS OF MEADOWLARK SEARCH TO EXPLAIN THE PROJECT PROJCESS: Granite County Clerk & Recorder Sarah Graham joined the session via Zoom, to request that \$60K of CARES Act Fund monies be used to facilitate the digitization of Granite County Property Records. She went on to explain that this would far benefit the program the County has been utilizing and this would go back to patent. The session was also joined by Braiden Burns and Austin Rath of Meadowlark Search explaining their dedication to preserving documents that tell the history of Montana. They continued by explaining the contract duration would be for approximately three months and include labor for book scanning of approximately 250 priority books within the Clerk & Recorder Vault, with an opportunity to complete secondary books as part of separate agreement if necessary. All scanned documents will then be indexed and uploaded to the proprietary cloud portal. Commissioner McLure asked for clarification of the fee structure of Meadowlark, since currently Granite County gets copy fees through iDoc. Braiden replied that their fee structure will include 50 cents for the first page and 25 cents for each page thereafter as a download fee in addition to a percentage of their volume fee. Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Mickey joined the Commission, to emphasize the importance of this project, including having these documents digitized incase of fire or flood. Commissioner McLure moved to use \$60K of CARES Act funds to digitize Property Records (up to 150,000 pages of such records) with Meadowlark Search as outlined in the contract. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Granite County Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Micky added an additional comment asking Meadowlark if they complete work for other departments. They replied that they do, they have scanned documents for Sherriff Departments, County Attorney Offices, and so forth; and that while they are here if there are additional departments interested in their service that those can be negotiated as a separate contract. The motion passed unanimously. The simple fee agreement was signed by the Commissioner Charles Hinkle, Chair.

PUBLIC HEALTH TAKING OVER CONTRACT MANAGEMENT & ACTIVITIES FOR PHEP: Public Health Director of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Leigh Ann Holmes joined the Commissioners via Zoom to follow up on her proposal from last week to combine the

PHEP role with the Public Health Contract between Granite County and Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. She explained that by combining Granite County PHEP Program services with Public Health it would be more cost-effective to the County. The proposed Professional Services Agreement was drafted and before the Board. Leigh Ann requested that Granite County extend the contract for longer than one year, so we don't need to re-negotiate this every year. She also referenced the success of the Home Visiting Program that is up to about 20 patients currently. Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw joined the conversation stating that he is partial to one-year contract for PHEP but can see extending the Public Health Nurse for a longer period of time. Commissioner McLure stated that we need to continue to pursue PHEP as long as we are eligible to receive it, she proposed that we sign this contract for one year and then if all goes well we potentially sign a three-year contract next year. Leigh Ann agreed to proposal. Commissioner McLure moved to sign the contract as proposed by Leigh Ann Holmes. Commissioner Adler seconded the Motion. Public comment was received by Tobacco Prevention Specialist & PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson via Zoom asking if current Granite County PHEP Coordinator Dustin Muhly would be fulfilling his PHEP duties for the end of fiscal year 2020-2021. Commissioner Hinkle responded that he would.

GRANITE COUNTY APPLICATION FOR COUNTY / TRIBAL MATCHING GRANT WITH ADLC BEING A JOING APPLICATION; Public Health Director of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Leigh Ann Holmes joined the Commissioners via Zoom to discuss the Tribal / County Matching grant that can be utilized for crisis intervention and jail diversion. The focus of this program is to reduce reliance on Montana State Hospitals for emergency and court ordered detention and evaluation. This program also increases the number of intervention and jail diversion options that may provide judges, county attorneys, and law enforcement with alternatives to incarceration. Leigh Ann explained that this grant would be used to develop a Crisis Intervention Team Lead (half-time) Position as part of CIT of Montana. This person would be available to host trainings for law enforcement officers in both Counties while focusing on building the infrastructure for the program. This grant is available every two years, and the outlook would be to continue to build the Crisis Coalition across the Counties. Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that he thinks this program would be very beneficial for the Sherriff's Department. Commissioner McLure moved to be part of ADLC application for the County / Tribal Matching Grant. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Scott Sylvester of the *Philipsburg Mail*, asked Leigh Ann how this grant funding work with Health Granite County Network and their current expansion. She responded by explaining that Anna, who was recently hired by Healthy Granite County is meeting individually with people to do care coordination and this would be entirely different as it is more focused on working with law enforcement and emergency personnel to teach them how to deal with those who are in crisis. Healthy Granite County Network Director, Kayla Sanders joined the session via Zoom to provide clarification of Anna's role with program. She stated that Anna is working on prevention and mental health services. She continued by stating that she is in support of this idea, and that Healthy Granite County Network will support this process as long as Granite County Sherriff Scott Dunkerson in support of it. Leigh Ann explained that she has reached out the Sherriff via

email but hasn't worked out the details yet. Kayla followed up to share that currently the Network is creating a crisis line through a grant they received through Intermountain; which is the same grant that is paying for Anna's position. There was no further public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-6: "A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION INCREASING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR GEORGETOWN LAKE FIRE SERVICE (GTLFSA) ARE IN GRANITE COUNTY; SECOND READING AND ADOPTION; Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw began the discussion by providing an overview of the process Georgetown Lake Fire Service completed to determine the amount necessary to cover their cost and fees. They then developed their proposal and brought it forth to both Anaconda-Deer Lodge County as well as Granite County Commissioners, and held public hearings were held by each county commission. The proposed increase of \$60 to \$95 annually for each property with a defined structure (habitable structure or business) with a taxable value up to \$1000 (base) and \$17 per every \$1000 in taxable value above the base is to be imposed to pay for actual expenses of the GTLFSA. Commissioner McLure moved to adopt Resolution 2021- A Granite County Resolution Increasing The Fee Schedule For Georgetown Lake Fire Service Are in Granite County. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion, and stated that they did a great job completing the study and putting this together. The motion passed unanimously. County Attorney Bradshaw would send the signed Resolution to the Montana Department of Revenue and the GTLFSA.

RETRACEMENT OF COUNTY SHOP PROPERTY IN PHILIPSBURG: Commissioner Hinkle stated that this is something that he thinks we need to get done. Commissioner McLure responded that this is something that we can't do right away and we will need to wait until the quiet title is completed that was discussed in previous sessions, and the deeds are of record. Commissioner Hinkle explained that he is wanting to have someone lined up to do this when the time comes, and asked how long the process of the quiet title will take. Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that the quiet title action would take approximately 3 months, but that the Commission could get someone lined up to potentially complete the task. The Commission discussed having licensed surveyors, Tom Moodry from Anaconda or Gordon Sorenson from Missoula to potentially complete the retracement; and having Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski reach out to both of them. Commissioner McLure moved that the County find a surveyor to retrace the County shop property in Philipsburg. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

KATHERINE HAUPTMAN'S PROPOSAL FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE IN GRANITE COUNTY: Katherine Hauptman from Eagle Ambulance of East Helena, MT joined the Commissioners to discuss her private ambulance service and to find out more information about the need in Granite County. Eagle Ambulance provides 24/7 emergency response in collaboration with local emergency medical service personnel. They are fully equipped and staffed with highly-trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). Eagle Ambulance

Service is able to provide emergency response (911); basic life support / advanced life support; life assist; long distant transport; and interfacility transport. Additionally, they focus on continued education by hosting NREMT courses, BLS provider certification, EMT endorsement courses, and ride-alongs for students seeking ambulance rotations. Currently Eagle Ambulance has two services, one in Montana City and one in Billings and Katherine Hauptman has been doing this since 1997. She stated the reason she has come to Granite County is to fill a void, and that she doesn't want to step on anyone's toes. She continued by explaining that her service works in Counties that also have a volunteer service, and they work in conjunction to make sure that all calls are answered. Commissioner Adler asked for additional information on how her funding works. Katherine Hauptman replied that she receives no County funding, she provides the building, the ambulance, the equipment, the staff, the trainings, etc., and that there are no liabilities to the County. She continued by stating that ideally it would make sense to have the ambulance service stationed in Hall to be able to serve the entire County. Commissioner McLure asked Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw to clarify if this is something that Katherine would even need to bring into the Commission, or if this is something she can just pursue as an entrepreneur. Bradshaw responded that she doesn't need the Commissioners blessing but it would be great to find some way to work together. Eagle Ambulance would need the County's approval to be called out using 911 service though. Commissioner McLure asked Katherine to explain how the process works when a call goes out in Counties where she is working with Volunteer Services. Katherine Hauptman replied that the call goes out first to the Volunteer Service and after one minute the call goes out again, and after one more minute if the call is not answered by the Volunteer Service the call goes to Eagle Ambulance Service. Commissioner Adler voiced sincere appreciation for the Volunteer Services across Granite County but stated that he would like to see a 24/7 service in the County, because at the end of the day we are talking about saving lives. He went on to propose that he would like to see the public given an opportunity to bring their questions and have their concerns heard as well as the local ambulance personnel volunteers by holding a public meeting with public discussion and input on Tuesday, April 27th at 2:00 PM, and this public meeting was promptly scheduled.

Public Comment was received from Jordan White voicing concern over a "perfect storm" day. Stating that if Eagle Ambulance Service was serving the County and spread thin doing transports, and had multiple emergencies on opposite ends of the County, how would they be able to respond? As well as issues with staffing and alienating volunteers. Katherine Hauptman responded by stating, yes, she would bring in staff, but that does not mean she wouldn't hire staff that already lives here, and she would ensure the ambulance service was adequately staffed for the area. Commissioner Adler responded that during a "perfect storm" day we would be in the same position no matter what. Katherine Hauptman also responded that they always take response times into consideration to and work with other entities and agencies to see what will be fastest to save someone's life (another service / life flight). Commissioner McLure added that by using a private enterprise could potentially alleviate the tax payer and provide a crucial service.

Public Comment was also received from Town councilperson DuWayne Ulrich stating that by going with a paid service the County runs the risk of losing the volunteer service altogether. He went on to explain that if the paid service decides to leave after one year, two years, five years, and the volunteer system has dissolved that it is hard to get it back. Katherine Hauptman responded that her service focuses strongly on education and training to keep that interest going strong within the community in ambulance service.

VICKI HARDING GRANITE COUNTY TREASURER, WITH MONTHLY CASH REPORT: Granite County Treasurer, Vicki Harding presented the Cash reports and Pledge Securities from March 2021. Commissioner McLure moved to accept the cash reports and pledge securities. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public Comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking for the Commissioners to approve of posting the cash report on the website, and the Commissioners did approve. Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski posted the cash report on the website after the meeting adjourned and will do so when the Treasurer presents in the future. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner McLure raised questions about the Financial Reports & Audit and proposed potentially merging both of these responsibilities to be directed to Granite County Auditor Don Davies. The Commissioners decided to continue this discussion at a later date.

PUBIC COMMENT:

Elena Gagliano provided public comment via Zoom to voice concern over the new Granite County Website, including errors on the new page, and the failure of the old website to re-direct to the new website. Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski stated she has been working with Philipsburg Marketing Group to address these issues but they are still ongoing. Commissioner Hinkle asked that Philipsburg Marketing Group attend the next session to provide the Commission with an update on the website.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A public notice was received from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality; Public Notice No. MT-21-08. The Purpose of the notice was to state the Departments intention to issue wastewater discharge permits to REC Advanced Silicon Materials, LLC.

BOARD MINUTES FOR APRIL 13, 2021: Commissioner McLure moved to accept the minutes for April 13, 2021. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNMENT: The session adjourned at 2:20 PM