

April 6, 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 (via Zoom) 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 Philipsburg Mayor Daniel Reddish; Granite County Sherriff Scott Dunkerson; Healthy Granite County Network Director, Kayla Sanders; and Georgetown Lake Volunteer Fire Department Members Fred Bjorklund and Kurt Unger. Attending via Zoom were Principal Engineer & Business Unit Manager with Great West Engineering, Jeremiah Theys; Granite County Medical Center Chief Executive Officer / DON, Maria Stoppler; Powell County Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Jennifer Robinson; Public Health Director of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Leigh Ann Holmes; Co-founder of Hope Health Alliance, Inc. & Clinical Social Worker, Stacey Wheeler; and Hope Health Alliance, Inc. & A-EMT Tyler Steinbach. As well as members of the general public including Elena Gagliano and Jordan White.

ROAD AND BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT/SOLID WASTE MANAGER WEEKLY REPORT: Paul Alt joined the session by phone because of a personal matter. He began the discussion by letting the Commissioners know he needed to dispatch members of the Road Crew to lower Rock Creek Road around midnight on April 5th to tend to a rock slide near Missoula County. He stated that after the crew got to the site they realized that the majority of the rock slide was in Missoula County, and reached out to Missoula County to remedy the matter. Paul continued to explain that the road was 90% blocked and that the road portion belonging to Granite County is cleaned up. Commissioner Hinkle asked Paul for an update regarding cold patch in Drummond and Paul stated that it should be completed on April 7th, 2021, and then they would proceed in the Philipsburg area.

Paul Alt proposed putting a right-of-way fence up along Rumsey Road and removing two cattle guards. The Commissioners asked for more clarification on this issue and Paul explained that the cattle guards are always a problem and that they will soon need to be replaced. Commissioner Hinkle stated that he would like to go look at the area before commenting further. Commissioner Adler followed up by stating that it would depend on whether or not someone had cattle in that area. The matter was taken under advisement.

Commissioner Adler discussed an ongoing issue concerning a County road going up to Garnet Ghost Town. He reiterated a conversation he had with Maria Craig from the Bureau of Land Management, Missoula Field Office, about the public removing posted signage and

entering through a closed gate to access the non-maintained County road and then becoming stuck. He explained that the issue is becoming one of rising concern for homeowners in the area who are having to deal with members of the general public who have become stuck and are asking them for assistance. Maria told Commissioner Adler that she would assist in any way that should could. Paul added to the conversation stating that he would post a sign explaining that the road is closed eight miles passed the gate. Commissioner Hinkle requested an update from Paul regarding Travelers Home and the need for gravel to be placed on the hill as well as the possibility of using millings. Paul replied that in approximately two weeks when some of the frost is gone he will place some gravel in the area. He followed up by stating that the Hall shop is currently out of gravel. Commissioner Adler motioned to get 1000 yards of gravel from the Weaver Pit in Drummond for the County Shop in Hall. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public Comment. The motion passed unanimously.

GEORGETOWN LAKE LEVEL OUTFLOW: The lake level was reported at 6428.43 feet according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report. The lake is approximately 12.84 inches below full pool. Commissioner Hinkle moved to leave the lake level as is at 35 CFS, and to discuss opening it up further next week. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

MUTUAL AID & AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT: The Mutual Aid and Automatic Agreement is an agreement entered into by the Georgetown Lake Fire Service Area, Georgetown Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Flint Creek Fire Service Area, Philipsburg Volunteer Fire Department, and Anaconda's West Valley Volunteer Fire Department to respond to major fire, disaster, or other emergencies within the defined geographical area. Fred Bjorklund, Fire Chief of Georgetown Lake Volunteer Fire Department explained how the agreement would enable the agencies to work together and improve the response to fires and emergencies in the area. He went on to discuss the impact this would have on insurance rates for homeowners. Commissioner Adler moved to approve and sign the Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreement. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw provided public comment thanking the Volunteer Fire Departments for all they do for our County. The motion passed unanimously.

SHERRIFF DUNKERSON PRESENTING THE DUI TASK FORCE BUDGET REORT: Granite County Sherriff Scott Dunkerson joined the Commissioners to provide an annual budget report, stating that the available appropriations of DUI task force funds is currently \$2775.32. He went on to explain that the funds are used for DUI overtime patrols for the County Rodeo, Flint Creek Valley Days, etc.; as well as for Designated Driver Gift Cards. He continued to explain that there have been a couple fatalities in Granite County this past year and that the task force has been working to make a difference in the County. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw added that DUI prosecutions are at an all-time high right now, and praised the work that the task force is doing. Sherriff Dunkerson went on to add that currently the task force is seeking two new members. Commissioner Hinkle asked the Sherriff how the new marijuana laws are affecting DUI patrols, to which the Sherriff explained the difficulties in testing and prosecuting potential DUI offenses for marijuana.

Commissioner Hinkle discussed a bill in the Legislature that would enable a County to implement restrictions on marijuana use at the County level. Sherriff Dunkerson said this would be something he would be in favor of if ever an option. There was no public comment.

KAYLA SANDERS WITH HEALTHY GRANITE COUNTY NETWORK; OFFICE FOR RURAL HEALTH COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE OPPORTUNITIES: Kayla Sanders, the Network Director for Healthy Granite County joined the Commissioners to discuss various opportunities available to the County through her office. She explained that The Healthy Granite County Network has secured grant funding to provide a Community Health Worker for the residents of Granite County until August 2024. She continued, that they hope that this position will help fill gaps, in line with what a Community Paramedic could do for Granite County; and if the county decides, to train a Community Paramedic or even hire an EMS Coordinator, that they are open to collaboration to create and sustain a program that enhances health care accessibility for the residents of Granite County. Kayla went on to discuss opportunities with the Office of Rural Health and the trainings that are available. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano via Zoom asking for clarification on what program was being discussed and asked for copies of the documentation Kayla provided the Commissioners with. Commission Assistant Billie Ann Kulaski responded that the documentation was provided in the meeting and would be posted to the website by the end of the day. The documentation was summarized and explained verbally by Kayla Sanders during this agenda item. Commissioner McLure who was attending via Zoom also requested copies of the documentation. There was no further comment.

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 present a proposal to combine the PHEP role with the Public Health Contract. She spoke about the uniqueness of how Granite County has handled this role in the past, and how closely this position is intertwined with the other duties handled by Public Health. Leigh Ann explained that by combining Granite County PHEP with Public Health it would be more cost-effective to the County. She went on to say that because they have a staff that is well-trained and ready to go that the flow of information would be more seamless and for \$1100 per month they would provide full compliance with the grant deliverables. Commissioner Hinkle remarked that we may be able to utilize the extra funds to support an Ambulance Coordinator. Leigh Ann quickly disagreed and stated that funds must be used for emergency preparedness ventures. Leigh Ann then invited Jennifer Robinson, Tobacco Prevention Specialist from Powell County to join the conversation via Zoom. Jennifer explained that she has been fully trained by the state regarding PHEP requirements and discussed the 72 deliverables that have to be submitted to the state on an annual basis. Commissioner Adler voiced concerns that the current Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Dustin Muhly is not present for the discussion. Commissioner McLure added that the Commissioners will take this under advisement. Commissioner Adler requested that Leigh Ann come to the Commission in-person the following week to discuss the issue further.

GIS DATA SHARING PROPOSAL FROM PHILIPSBURG TOWN MAYOR DANIEL REDDISH: Philipsburg Mayor Daniel Reddish provided the Commissioners with a

Memorandum of Agreement for Sharing of GIS Data between the Town of Philipsburg and the Granite County Commissioners dated in October of 2013. The agreement enables the Town of Philipsburg as well as Granite County to share mutually beneficial GIS data to further public safety and to benefit residents. The reason Mayor Reddish brought forth the agreement is because he understood that the agreement approved by the entities but was never signed in 2013, and he wanted to have the two entities formally renew the agreement to utilize data to support the Growth Plan that the town is currently developing. Commissioner Adler moved to sign the new signature page and renew the agreement. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano via Zoom, voicing concerns that the agreement wasn't ever signed. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw recounted the previous exchange between the Commissioners and Mayor Reddish to assist Elena in understanding why the agreement is being renewed and signed during the session. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED FEE INCREASE BY GEORGETOWN LAKE FIRE SERVICE AREA IN GRANITE COUNTY: Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw opened the public hearing, introducing the proposed fee increase by Georgetown Lake Fire Service Area in Granite County. This public hearing had been publicly the past 2 weeks in the Philipsburg Mail newspaper as required by law. He went on to discuss the uniqueness of this situation with part of this fire service area being in Granite County and the other portion in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. Blaine stated that Georgetown Lake Fire Service has already gone to the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission, who approved the proposed increase. The request is for fees to cover actual costs of the fire service area and the fee structure, including proposed increase, is fair and equitable in the County Attorney's opinion. 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. Jericho Bay HOA, through President Lee Tangedahl, gave written comment in support of the proposed fee increase; and it is the GTLFSA's understanding that Anaconda-Deer Lodge County are going to support the fee increase. Scott Sylvester of the *Philipsburg Mail* commented that the GTLFSA has done a wonderful job putting together the proposed fee increase documentation which gave the basis for the request. Fred Bjorklund, Fire Chief of the Georgetown Lake Volunteer Fire Department joined the conversation to discuss how fire departments across the nation are rated and how that data is utilized to determine insurance premiums. He explained that homes that are not in a developed fire district have a difficult time finding coverage, and that it behooves homeowners to support the development of their local fire departments. Currently the area at Georgetown Lake is rated at a class 6 which is exceptional for a rural area. No public comments, in writing or verbal, opposed the proposed fee increase. Commissioner McLure motioned that the proposed fee increase by Georgetown Lake Fire Service Area in Granite County be accepted by Granite County subject to a formal Resolution being adopted. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

MARIA STOPPLER CEO / DON, GRANITE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT, MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE: Maria Stoppler, CEO / DON of Granite County Medical Center joined the Commissioners via Zoom to provide a monthly financial update; Month-to-date revenue is at \$398,690 which is up 1.8% over last month and year-to-date revenue is at \$3,374,652 which is up 1.6% to target. Profitability month-to-date is at \$393,823; operating profit month-to-date is at \$29,247; and net income month-to-date is at \$5,697. She then went on to provide a COVID update explaining that as of April 6, 2021 Granite County had zero active COVID cases with 157 new cases across the state. Currently Montana residents 16+ are eligible to be vaccinated, and this week GGMC received the Johnson & Johnson single dose vaccine. As of March 29, 2021, a total of 458,577 doses have been administered in Montana and 181,907 residents have been fully immunized. Scott Sylvester of the *Philipsburg Mail*, asked Maria some questions regarding the new X-Ray Suite being developed at GCMC and why the center decided to move forward with the project. Maria explained that the previous radiology equipment they had was outdated and since the need aligned with applicable uses of COVID money they decided to upgrade the equipment. She went on to clarify that 100% of this project is being paid for by COVID funds. Commissioner McLure commented that she attended the Hospital Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 30th, and that she was pleased to hear how receptive the hospital is to the Ambulance / EMT issue being discussed at the County level.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR MILEAGE FOR GRANITE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONDUCTING OFFICIAL BUSIENSS, INCLUDING TESTIFYING AT THE LEGISLATURE; Commissioner Hinkle began the discussion to explain that he previously went over to the Legislature to testify for House Bill 421. Commissioner McLure felt that this trip constituted Granite County related business and that Commissioner Hinkle should receive mileage for this trip. Commissioner Adler agreed and Commissioner Hinkle will receive mileage. There was no public comment.

GREAT WEST ENGINEERING; RESPONSE FOR EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP) REQUEST FROM FERC: Principal Engineer & Business Unit Manager with Great West Engineering, Jeremiah Theys joined the conversation via Zoom to explain the DSSMR report. Commissioner Hinkle asked Jeremiah if he had any insight into what would cause the influx in outflow that was reported in the March 23rd Session by Jeremy Mickey. Jeremiah explained that he wasn't sure but that the Commissioners should be working with Flint Creek Hydro to figure it out and added that he would like to take a look at the outflow report that was submitted to the Commissioners during that session. Commissioner Adler also stated that we have since added cameras to the site to enable the Commissioners to monitor the activity more closely, which Jeremiah said he would add to his future reports. There was no public comment for this section.

HOPE HEALTH ALLIANCE (HHA), INC., PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES: Co-founder of Hope Health Alliance, Inc. & Clinical Social Worker, Stacey Wheeler and A-EMT Tyler Steinbach joined the Commissioners via Zoom to discuss the opportunities of the Hope Health Alliance (HHA) program, which provides technical and staffing assistance for behavioral health emergencies and follow-up care across rural and frontier Montana. HHA

collaborates closely with local fire, ambulance, law enforcement agencies, health departments, and healthcare facilities to operate a program which works to decrease the use of emergency rooms, decrease time of police officers at the scene, decrease higher levels of care (such as hospitalization), and increase community-based treatment. Public comment was received by Jordan White voicing the importance of having behavioral health services integrated into ambulance services. Commissioner McLure joined the conversation to explain that a lot of the services that Hope Health Alliance is offering are services that our Public Health Nurse is already providing. The Commissioners thanked the Hope Health Alliance for their time and input.

DIGITAL AGREEMENT WITH HERE FOR GIS DATA: County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw explained the details of the agreement to the Commissioners, stating that this would be a one-time transaction to sell the data for \$500. HERE is a private company that takes the GIS data and creates their own mapping programs. He continued by saying that this provides up-to-date information for businesses and consumers that utilize mapping for navigation equipment and the like. Commissioner Hinkle stated that he uses various platforms such as Google Maps and various mapping applications so he is in favor of this agreement. Blaine followed up stating that Matt Pearce of Mapping & Planning Specialist, Inc., is in favor of the agreement as well. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the digital agreement with HERE. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. Public comment was received via Zoom from Elena Gagliano stating that she disagrees with selling the data because she doesn't want that information shared with international parties. Blaine explained that current information is already available and this agreement is likely for newer addresses and updated data. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBIC COMMENT:

Clerk of District Court, Carol Bohrsen joined the Commissioners to discuss the need for a new laptop computer since Court proceedings are still being conducted via Zoom. The Commissioners agreed that she could go purchase a new laptop of her choosing and submit a claim to the Clerk & Records Office. This matter was not of significant public interest so no publicly noticed agenda is needed for this action.

Jordan White joined via Zoom to ask the Commissioners why they are so intent on including the hospital in the development of a Paid Coordinator Position. Both Commissioner Adler and Commissioner Hinkle stated that the hospital plays a vital role in the development of the role.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence.

BOARD MINUTES FOR MARCH 30, 2021: Commissioner McLure moved to accept the minutes for March 30, 2021. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNMENT: The session adjourned at 2:35 PM