

July 2, 2024

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 Commissioner McLure, Commissioner Adler and Commissioner Hinkle attending. Also attending were Commissioner's Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski, and Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw, who attended a portion of the agenda items. 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.

Also, in attendance were *Philipsburg Mail* Editor, Amelia Wood; Granite County Sheriff, Scott Dunkerson; Grizzly Disposal General Manager, Billy Fisher; Republic Municipal & Government Affairs Manager, Ryan Coffman and Director of Municipal Services Jim Hutchenson; Granite Disposal Owner / Operator, Rick Robinson; Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd; Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper; Granite County Custodian, Janeen Bonney; and members of the general public including Elena Gagliano.

BOARD MINUTES;

Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for June 25, 2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Electronic mail was received from MACo announcing the 2024 MACo Annual Conference on September 15-18, 2024 in Missoula. Commissioner McLure will be attending the Annual Conference.

The Justice Court end-of-period Disbursement Report was received; totaling \$9,581.50.

Electronic mail was received from Kathy Thompson of Stahly Engineering outlining updated bridge priorities in Granite County. This information was also sent to Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt. Great West Engineering also received a copy of the report and will begin reviewing the bridge files for the County. This will be a future agenda item for further discussion.

Electronic mail was received from Sharon Parks-Banda with U.S. Senator Steve Daines Office sharing an article announcing \$43.3 Million in PILT for Montana communities.

The Commission reviewed a letter from the U.S. Department of the interior explaining that the County would receive \$412,227.00 in PILT funds for FY 2025.

Electronic mail was received from Dan Clark with MSU Local Government Services providing information about Local Government Review Process. There was a survey request as part of the email, that Commissioner McLure completed this morning.

Electronic mail was received from Robert Littlejohn responding to a request from the Commissioner's Office asking who the second in command is for the Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance Association. Robert Littlejohn explained that he will provide more information on this matter after their meeting in the coming days; and inquired about how to handle some mechanical issues with the ambulance without exhausting the budget. The Commissioners noted that they will look at the mechanical repairs when they review budgets; and asked that Robert Littlejohn put the repairs into his budget for FY 2025.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano raising concern over the timing on the agenda; and the Commissioners running early.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano raising concern over how Commission meetings are ran, noting the difficulties for those attending via the Zoom Platform. Elena Gagliano also raised concern over the personal interactions between the Commissioners and herself, adding that she, as a taxpayer, has the right to speak at meetings. She noted that the Town of Philipsburg and the County not working with the public is why the Local Government Review ballot measure recently passed.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt was not able to join the session to provide an update of projects across the County as he was meeting with Montana Department of Transportation to discuss the maintenance projects on Road 348. Commissioner Adler explained that the Crew is still blading County roads around the County. They will also be preparing to paint the crosswalks on Georgetown Lake Road, a County road, as decided upon by the Commission last year. Next week the Crew is hoping to get started in Henderson Creek and work on roads towards Drummond and Hall. Commissioner Hinkle noted that the Skalkaho is way worse condition than the 348 referencing the holes and cracks.

Solid Waste Update: The hours will change at the Philipsburg Solid Waste Site to align with the Drummond Site on July 9, 2024. The new hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and have been posted at the site, on the website, and noticed in the newspaper.

CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH REPUBLIC SERVICES / UPDATE ON PROPOSAL FROM GRANITE DISPOSAL; The Commission was joined by Grizzly Disposal General Manager, Billy Fisher; Republic Municipal & Government Affairs Manager, Ryan Coffman and Director of Municipal Services Jim Hutchenson; and Granite Disposal Owner / Operator, Rick Robinson. The Commission had met on June 18, 2024 to discuss this matter and decided to give Granite Disposal time to provide information regarding their permitting status before moving forward. Billy Fisher forwarded an email into the Commissioners Office outlining the response form the Public Services Commission (PSC) stating that they would need to look into the matter further before they could provide a response. Commissioner Adler inquired if the Republic Contract could be extended for three years as

opposed to five. Ryan Coffman stated if they wanted to open it up and make an amendment they could, but he does not think this is in the best interest of the County. Rick Robinson referenced an email that he and Billy Fisher of Granite Disposal received from the PSC. The group reviewed the email, but determined that further investigation and review would need to occur prior to the permitting questions being answered. Ryan Coffman noted that it is the responsibility of the Hauler to conduct their due diligence to ensure their permitting is in order prior to submitting a proposal. Rick Robinson explained that he would like to improve the cash flow into his business, noting difficulties in hiring and retaining workers as well as the expense to maintain equipment. He asked that the Commission allow him to haul the tonnage he picks up directly to the landfill and then to have the County reimburse him for that tonnage. Rick Robinson agreed that his licensing questions still need to be answered by the PSC. Commissioner Adler commented that the Commissioners were hoping to have more information from the PSC prior to the meeting. Commissioner McLure stated that Granite Disposal is a private enterprise and the County can't bare the burden to ensure that a private enterprise stays afloat, adding that she doesn't feel as though Granite Disposal is ready with their proposal. Republic explained that they are seeking to contract with the County and that following this 5-year contract extension that the County would have to put out a request for proposals (RFP) for Solid Waste transportation services, which would give another agency like Granite Disposal plenty of time to generate a proposal. Jim Hutchenson explained that Rick Robinson's request to haul waste directly to the landfill is not a question for the County, but that would have to be a PSC permitting question. He noted that the County's responsibility is for the Transfer Stations. Jim Hutchenson added that with the contract extension, Republic is limited as to what they can do, aside from extending the contract; but noted that if the two parties mutually agreed upon amendments that those could be looked at. Commissioner Adler moved to accept the 5-year contract extension with Republic Services. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Rick Robinson asked the Commission again if he could direct haul to the landfill as opposed to using the transfer station and get reimbursed from the County for the tonnage hauled to the landfill. Commissioner McLure responded that as a private enterprise, Granite Disposal can haul to whichever site, but that the County is not going to reimburse the business. There were no further public comments received and the motion passed unanimously. Attorney Bradshaw noted that Solid Waste Sites are a vital service right now.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6429.32 feet; 2.16 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner Hinkle moved to continue releasing 30 CFS in alignment with the current FERC Order in place. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no comments and the motion passed unanimously.

RENEWAL OF HEADWATERS RCD PARTNERSHIP (MEMBERSHIP DUES); The Commissioners reviewed the correspondence from the previous week, requesting the County to renew their membership and pay their annual dues (\$1,720.68) to Headwater RCD. Commissioner Adler moved to renew the partnership and pay the annual membership dues

(\$1,720.68) to Headwaters RCD. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER; The Commission went into closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

GRANITE COUNTY SHERIFF SCOTT DUNKERSON TO DISCUSS THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUDGET; The Commission was joined by Granite County Sheriff, Scott Dunkerson to review the Sheriff's Office budget for FY 2025. Sheriff Dunkerson explained that he needs another Deputy, noting that there is currently a half-time / benefited position available that he is having a difficult time filling. The group discussed the growth in the County and the drastic increase in call volume. Sheriff Dunkerson noted the amount of subdivisions across the County, especially in the Georgetown Lake area. The Sheriff's Office already has a vehicle available for an additional Deputy; and the Sheriff will ask for another new vehicle in his budget for FY 2025. The Commission advised the Sheriff to add the request into his budget for them to review further.

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW MATRIX FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS' DEPUTIES (EXCLUDING SHERIFF'S OFFICE); The Commission was joined by Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd. The Commission reviewed the drafted matrix for Elected Officials' Deputies that they began discussing the week prior. Commissioner McLure noted that they have adjusted the matrix that the Elected Officials have agreed to. Letters were submitted to the Commissioners Office from the Clerk & Recorder and the Treasurer outlining the new matrix details and requested that the matrix go into effect on July 1, 2024 with the new budget, and that all Deputies keep their anniversary dates as opposed to aligning with the Elected Officials on January 1, 2025. It was also requested that Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Mickey receive retroactive pay since she became a 6th year Deputy in January 2024; this would be based off of the FY 2024 base of elected officials until July 1, 2024 (\$470.88); the equities of this was discussed. Commissioner Adler recused himself from the vote on this matter as he felt he had a conflict of interest with his daughter being a current deputy. Commissioner Hinkle moved to adopt and sign the new Granite County Pay Matrix for Elected Officials' Deputies (Excluding Sheriff's Office) and to provide Deputy Clerk & Recorder Becky Mickey with retroactive pay since she became a 6th year Deputy in January 2024; this would be based off of the FY 2024 base of elected officials until July 1, 2024 (\$470.88). Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.