

July 26, 2022

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 Scott Adler, Commissioner McLure and Commissioner Hinkle attending. Also attending were Commission Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski, Clerk Susan Antonioli, and Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, who attended a portion of the agenda items set for the day. 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 Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Board of Health Member, Ashley Westphal; Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes; Bi-County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson; Granite County Public Health Assistant, Jackie Bolster; Tri-County Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Amanda Bohrer; Local Business Owners, Kendrick and Justine Richmond; The Town of Philipsburg's Mayor, Daniel Reddish; The Town of Drummond's Mayor, Gail Leeper; and other members of the general public including Jim Bacquet, Heidi Hinkle, Tami Kanduch, Rick & Cindy McGill, Janeen Bonney, and Elena Gagliano.

QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING; The Commission was joined by Board of Health Member, Ashley Westphal as well as; Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes; Bi-County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson; Granite County Public Health Assistant, Jackie Bolster; and Tri-County Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Amanda Bohrer. Local Health Officer Dr. Kira Conn was not available. Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes reported that things in his office have been very busy with residential development and septic permitting. He added that he has been working with financing officers who seem to be tightening their regulations concerning the purchase of property. The Sanitarian's Office has also been completing several food inspections for mobile food service trucks and vendors to ensure that they are licensed and safe for summer concerts and events. Chad Lanes provided an update of a nuisance trailer in Drummond that needs to be cleaned up. He explained that the public seems to be helping to clean up the trailer and that in Powell County they utilized some funds from the Junk Vehicle Program to support clean up in similar situations, however this situation typically incurs additional costs. Commissioner Adler added that the cost to clean up this trailer and haul it away would be far too expensive for the County and would then set a precedent for others that don't want to clean up their property. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw commented that the County Board of Health could have the trailer removed and then the County could go after the landowner to recoup the costs incurred with the cleanup. Commissioner Adler responded that he feels as though the landowner should take care of this as opposed to having the County invest in the cleanup. Blaine Bradshaw then suggested having the Board of Health order the landowner to take care of the issue. Chad Lanes agreed, commenting that the Board of Health serves as the source to get hazards cleaned up. Chad Lanes and Blaine Bradshaw are going to work together on this matter and keep the Commission updated.

Bi-County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson reported that she submitted the yearly report for PHEP and it was accepted by the State of Montana. She has begun working on her deliverables for the upcoming year. Jenifer Robinson also reported that she attended the PHEP Summit Training the previous week and that she plans to implement a new HAN system in the coming weeks.

Tri-County Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Amanda Bohrer reported that she has partnered with local non-profit, Healthy Granite County Network for an upcoming concert event in Philipsburg over Flint Creek Valley Days. She will have a table at the concert where she will be providing prevention materials. Amanda Bohrer recently facilitated an art event at the Drummond Library that began with a prevention lesson. She had upwards of 35 attendees throughout the summer. She has also hired a Red Ribbon Week Speaker to speak at schools across the three counties and is planning a video competition to take place that same week. Amanda Bohrer has designated her focus on Veterans, partnering with the Maxville Food Pantry in Granite County.

Public Health Assistant, Jackie Bolster provided a Public Health Update, explaining that the Department passed a vaccine audit the previous week with no issues. The Department is also in the process of scheduling the Blue Cross Van to visit Granite County this fall. The Maternal Child Grant Report was recently submitted to the State of Montana. The Department is also hosting a COVID Booster Clinic in Drummond as well as Back-to-School Booster Clinics. Jackie Bolster provided an update of the Area V on Aging Program, explaining that there are three applicants for the open position of an Elderly Care Companion; and the program is currently serving 25 clients with a waiting list. The Public Health Department is also working on seeing what type of Home Health Services can be brought to Granite County. Jackie Bolster added that there are currently 7 reported positive cases of COVID-19 in the County.

Board of Health Member, Ashley Westphal provided a brief update as she has been working with Healthy Granite County Network. She explained that she has been offering trainings on how to administer Naloxone. She is currently working with area Schools and Fire Departments.

Public comment was received from local resident Jim Bacquet asking where residents can report their positive at home test results, if they are to test positive for COVID-19. Ashley Westphal explained that in the at-home test kits there are instructions on where to report the results through various websites and apps. Jackie Bolster commented that there is also an option to report at-home test results on the DPHHS website.

The next Quarterly Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Granite County Commission's Office in the Courthouse.