

**April 18, 2023**

**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 Adler, Commissioner McLure, 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 in-person. 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 Granite County Board of Health Member Ashley Westphal; Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn; Director of Public Health, Lauren Bolton; Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes; Granite County Health Nurse, Debbie Robinson; Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Fisheries Biologist, Brad Liermann; FWP Water Conservationist, Stephen Begley; FWP, Fisheries Manager, Pat Saffel; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Mickey; Drummond Volunteer Ambulance Association President, Frank Prince & Wife Monica Prince; Slate Architecture, Principal Architect, Scott Cromwell; Granite County Animal Shelter Project Board Members, Rick McGill, Cindy McGill, Heidi Hinkle, Joan Becknell, Marlene Chor, Jean McKinney, Debbie Mentzer, Shelagh More, Matt Marjamaa, Kelly Marjamaa, Kerry Graybeal, Kelly Cline, Jack Nugent, and Ashley Long; Local Contractor, Dave Kesler; and members of the general public including Elena Gagliano; John Groomes; and Wayne Hale.**

**QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING; The Granite County Board of Health Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Commissioner McLure. Joining the Commissioners were Granite County Board of Health Member Ashley Westphal; Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn; Director of Public Health, Lauren Bolton; and Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the minutes from January 17, 2023. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Tri-County Sanitarian Report: Chad Lanes introduced himself and explained that there have been a lot of establishments in the County that have changed hands, initiating a lot of food inspections. He added that septic permits have simmered down a bit. Chad Lanes then presented a proposed resolution (Granite County Board of Health Resolution No. 2023-1) to enact food establishment regulations and a fee schedule for services rendered by the Tri-County Environmental Health Department. He explained that this is something that they have had all along (on a volunteer basis), but that no one seems to take it very seriously; and that before someone starts a food business they should work with the Department to review their plan. Currently, businesses are calling the Department when they are ready to open and they are having to work backwards to correct things, rather than addressing them from the beginning. He added that there is a fee associated with the proposed resolution, but that it also holds the Department to a time frame in which to complete the review. Chad Lanes**

referenced the new trend of mobile food vendors, and how this resolution prepares such mobile food business owners for doing business outside of the tri-counties. This resolution would apply only to Granite County, but Deer Lodge County and Powell County will be adopting this resolution as well. Commissioner Adler moved to approve and adopt Granite County Board of Health Resolution 2023-1; A Resolution to enact Food Establishment Regulations and Fee Schedule for Service Rendered by the Tri-County Environmental Health Department (in Granite County). Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking for introductions, and for clarification of who would complete the work outlined in the Resolution. Chad Lanes reintroduced himself, as the Tri-County Sanitarian and explained that the duties outlined in the Resolution are already being performed by the Department and the resolution formalizes the duties as well as the fee structure. There were no further comments and the motion passed unanimously.

Chad Lanes added that he and his Department attended trainings facilitated by the Environmental Health Association and the Association of Montana Public Health in the previous week.

**Public Health Update:** Director of Public Health, Lauren Bolton joined the Board of Health to provide a program overview. Tobacco Prevention has undergone some changes, instead of Amanda Bohrer providing services to Granite County, Public Health Nurse Deb Robinson and Lauren Bolton have been working with the County Schools to provide education and outreach. Additionally, they have been working with those who rent homes and properties to educate them on the Clean Indoor Air Act. The PHEP Program has been focused on updating plans and has two plans for the Board to review and act on today. PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson will be attending a PHEP Conference in Alabama later in the month—that being approved already by the Board. The Public Health Nurse has been very busy with WIC, which continues to grow in Granite County. Lauren Bolton noted that at some point if there is a large enough WIC population, that the local grocery store may be interested in becoming a WIC supported store. Currently immunizations are lower, which is normal for this time of year, the Department usually sees an increase going into the “Back-to-School” time-frame. The Public Health Department continues working with the County Schools to get programming, in May Steve Schmidt will be coming to present to the 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders on DUI and Teen Driver Empowerment. The Department also recently attended the DUI Task Force Meeting for April.

The Board reviewed the updated PHEP Plans including the Promulgation Document and Pandemic Influenza Plan 2023-2024; and the Rabies Management Protocol. Lauren Bolton explained that these plans have remained mostly the same, with the majority of updates to the personnel / contacts within the plans. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve and sign the updated Promulgation Document and Pandemic Influenza Plan 2023-2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking for clarification on the plan in regard to notations around Granite County Medical Center (GCMC). The plan lists 21 available beds, which Elena Gagliano questioned

being the correct number. Lauren Bolton responded that 21 beds is correct for the surge capacity number of beds, and explained what the surge capacity means and how this would work during a triage situation. Elena Gagliano stated that GCMC is a nursing home and the people in the facility are in long-term care, asking if anyone from GCMC attended the meeting. There was no one in attendance from GCMC at the Board of Health Meeting. Elena Gagliano also raised questions over COVID being listed in the plan, since the COVID emergency is over. Commissioner McLure clarified that influenza is a communicable disease and the plan is not just referring to COVID. Lauren Bolton added that they would like to call this a respiratory illness plan, but due to the grant stipulations there is certain verbiage that has to be included. Commissioner Hinkle commented that he had similar concerns over the COVID verbiage, but that COVID could come back at any time. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw added that GCMC is classified as a critical access hospital, not a long-term care facility. Lauren Bolton concurred and explained the differential in the classifications. She added that the Public Health Office works very closely with GCMC, especially in the development of these plans. There were no further comments and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Adler motioned to sign and approve the Rabies Management Protocol 2023-2024. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

Public comment was received after the motion from Elena Gagliano voicing concern over the Public Health Agenda, stating it should have listed an agenda item specifically for public comment.

The Board adjourned.