

September 5, 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. 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, Ashely Westphal: Public Health and Safety Coordinator, Jackie Bolster: Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn: Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes: US Forest Service Ranger (Pintler District), Sara Rouse: Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt: Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham: Montana Public Radio Chief Engineer, Tom McGinley and General Engineer Ray Ekness: Granite County Solid Waste Secretary, Lynn Anderson: Granite County Solid Waste Clerk, Scott Rettig: Georgetown Lake Residents, Blaine Messer and Vladimir Babich: Rumsey Mountain Radio Users Association Member, Bob Mazzolini: and members of the general public including Elena Gagliano, Bob Suthers and Dean Philips

SPECIAL SESSION GRANITE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH: Commissioner McLure called the Special Session to order. Joining the Commission were Granite County Board of Health Member Ashely Westphal: Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes: Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn: and Public Health and Safety Coordinator, Jackie Bolster. The group reviewed the documentation that needs to be approved and submitted along with quarterly reports. The Pandemic Influenza Plan was discussed. Commissioner McLure requested that more information be provided around why COVID-19 was included in the plan, as this question was asked previously. Jackie Bolster responded with a written response from Public Health Director, Lauren Bolton: This plan is a base plan to initiate a public health pandemic response (if there is a pandemic) and must be flexible to adjust to different diseases/viruses as symptoms, severity, mode of transmission, and many other characteristics may vary depending on disease of interest. For example: In 2009 we saw influenza pandemic due to the H1N1 strain of influenza. Individuals at higher risk for severe illness and death included children, pregnant individuals, and people with underlying respiratory or chronic conditions. While in 2020 we saw COVID-19 pandemic and individuals at higher risk were people over age 65, immunocompromised individuals and individuals with underlying conditions. Furthermore, depending on the illness, method and duration of testing, isolation, and quarantine vary, as well. Once the disease is identified in pandemic response, plans will evolve quickly to align with CDC and MT DPHHS recommendations for that specific scenario. Commissioner Hinkle asked if there is any data connecting allergies to COVID-19. The group discussed that immunocompromised people may have further risk. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to approve and sign the updated Pandemic Influenza Plan 2023-2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano stating that this plan is completely outdated and none of the information applies. She added that parts of the plan were updated in 2013, and that the CDC doesn't have an update like this relating to COVID or variances, but they do have one for influenza. Elena Gagliano added that things have been updated as of June 2023 in regard to COVID and that plans like these are outdated and not needed. She stated that this document is confusing and difficult for the public to understand, and the document is for the public's benefit. Elena Gagliano also noted that Ivermectin is an approved vaccine but not mentioned in the plan. Dr. Conn commented on the Pandemic Plan, stating there are

several places where it outlines the Medical Director, which is Dr. Hunter Crose, not her. She added that if these functions are for the Local Health Officer they need to be accurate, and that if things are occurring at the Medical Center, these would fall under Dr. Crose, the Medical Center's medical director. Dr. Conn responded to Elena Gagliano's comments stating it is impossible to have a plan for something that hasn't happened yet, and that the goal for this plan is to have a framework to work from in the event of a pandemic. Most of the information in the plan is very generic for how diseases move through a population, but that this is not designed to be specific to any one disease. She added that this says Influenza and COVID because these are the typical endemic and pandemics seen in the medical field. If a disease like Small Pox was spreading they would use this same framework to work through the spread. September 5, 2023 continued... Commissioner McLure commented that this plan is from the MT Department of Health Services. Public comment was received from Bob Suthers raising concern over how the document was titled on the Agenda as Pandemic Influenza Plan and not Pandemic Influenza / COVID Plan. He stated that by not listing COVID in the title it is very misleading to the public. Bob Suthers stated that there isn't really an influenza pandemic and if the plan is addressing COVID it should have been part of the notice as it would have sparked more public interest. Commission Assistant Billie Ann Kulaski responded that the listing he is reading from has a copy of the document being discussed attached. Dr. Conn responded that a pandemic is not specific to COVID and that this just means a disease that is wide spread across a region. She explained that there is an Influenza pandemic every year, and the term just has a new connotation after COVID: but that this plan is a generic framework. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw explained that this plan has nothing to do with shutdowns or mask mandates or anything of that nature—plan basically applies in the event there is a pandemic. Elena Gagliano commented that she agrees with Dr. Conn, but that she understands the confusion of Bob Suthers. She added that she doesn't remember when there was ever a pandemic from the flu, and that people just got their shots: there were never shut downs or mask mandates. She noted that what happened with COVID should never happen again and any reference to COVID in this document should be eradicated. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw explained that he agrees with some of Elena Gagliano's comments around COVID in regard to issues concerning masking and shutdowns, but that this plan does not force the Commission's hand in regard to those issues. Those issues were for decisions later on as there currently no pandemic. There were no further comments and the motion passed unanimously. Jackie Bolster explained the Truck Wreck Protocol. Chad Lanes added that this has been in place forever and is renewed annually. The document provides guidance if there is a truck wreck in the County. If the wreck involves food, Chad Lanes as the Tri-County Sanitarian responds to the site to see if the food is salvageable and decides where it should go. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to approve the Granite County Truck Wreck Protocol 2023. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.