

November 19, 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 Hinkle attending, and Commissioner Adler. Also attending were Commission Assistant Maranda Williams, 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 Clerk and Recorder Sarah Graham, Road and Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt, Professional Land Surveyor Barney Hallin, and members of the general public Elena Gagliano, Sam Cates, Lacy Cates.

BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner Hinkle noted changes about the board minutes for November 12th, 2024.

Minute changes; Commissioner Hinkle noted he meant it was East Fork road on the steep area's barricades. Commissioner Hinkle suggested he didn't know how many acres Forest Service would burn and instead correct it to many acres.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano in which she referenced the previous minutes (November 12, 2024) on page 5, public comment received from Elena that she used to participate in FMAC meetings, Elena corrected that she was a member of the FMAC group and used to participate in the Beaverhead Deerlodge working group meetings and report back to FMAC and FMAC gave the update to the commission. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve amended minute changes. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. The motion carried and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

A postcard was received from Great West inviting the Commissioners to their Holiday Open House in December.

A postcard was received from Five Valley Lands inviting Commissioners to their holiday party in Missoula in December.

Electronic mail was received from the Montana Department of Administration for a final demand on the account balance for the Philipsburg Cemetery District No. 1. Commissioner McLure asked that we notify them of the balance owed. The Annual Financial report fee was not paid. Administrative Assistant reached out to the secretary already to remind them about the notice.

A letter was received from Bouma Truck Sales for an introduction of a sales rep and to assist with any road department truck needs.

PUBLIC COMMENT;

Sam and Lacy Cates emailed a letter prior to the meeting. They raised concern about county roads being 60-feet wide. They asked for a schedule of that road back in the 1890's early 1900's. They stated how they are opposed to Cliff Gulch road being a county road but that their names are on the petition. They express concern making it a county road would block them off from their property because it's such a steep grade, they couldn't make it up their driveway in a pickup. They have put out rocks and gravel to keep from their road sloughing off since it's so steep. Commissioner Adler would like the Road supervisor, Paul Alt to go look at it. Concern is the top end of Cliff Gulch Road where it joins into Algonquin Mine Road. Sixty feet is the legal standard Commissioner Adler states for county roads, considering utilities and everything else. Sam noted that there are public access roads that are much narrower. Road Superintendent Paul Alt and County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw joined the commissioners meeting. Blaine Bradshaw mentioned that the right-of-way width has to be 60 ft, the petition talks about keeping the actual, physical roadway width to the historical width and so caps that at 15' and no plans to widen road or have utilities go through. Blaine stated he thinks they are on the same page and not going to go up and widen the road. Sam brought up concerns with possible future widening of the road with new commissioners and changes down the road. Blaine noted with the resolution establishing it one way that the County is bound by that but going to double check the question. Sam and Lacey would not like to see their rock, gravel, and gate be taken out if they can help it to widen the road. Blaine said the public hearing would be a good time to bring that up again.

Elena Gagliano made a public comment regarding Mrs. Cates public comment and that this matter should be an agenda item as a discussion item so all the documents are there and if there was a resolution and a public hearing December 10th this should be all brought out as part of the record on the agenda and not during public comment. Blaine agreed said stated that it is on today's agenda (later in the meeting) and the public hearing noticed in the local newspaper twice.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt stated that the road crew has been plowing snow and filled holes with cold patch. Blackfoot will pay for 5 totes of oil for cold patch per the agreement they have made. Paul Alt will get a current price and bill them for that and also the ditch work done up East Fork. He noted that Blackfoot had dug out East Fork up towards Elk Creek and that the actual fiber cable is bad and they have to tear that out. Paul Alt said that they will have to wait until next spring. Everyone agreed it should wait until next year.

Commissioner Hinkle would like Paul Alt to go look at places to put the barricades previously discussed at prior meetings down below the hill out along East Fork Road. Commissioner Hinkle states they should be there because you'll go off the road for a long way if there's no barrier there; it is a clear safety concern. This is customary maintenance and should be addressed. Commissioner Adler said there are some lights bulbs out at the dump site in Philipsburg. Paul Alt will look at them and see what ones need replaced. Commissioner Adler brought up Blackfoot again and stated he is getting concerned with the clean-up that will be needed, etc. He has been asked if they will pick up the rocks and cable

etc., and he noted they have a lot work to do come spring. Commissioner Hinkle noted they've changed crews and maybe that communication was lacking. Commissioner Adler brought up concerns that the county will be stuck with some of the messes from putting in fiber cable. If the county has to do the work, it will be taking away from their work. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw suggested it could be contracted out and to bill Blackfoot that way.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6428.07 feet; 17.16 inches below full pool with 6 CFS being released currently, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner Hinkle moved to continue releasing 6 CFS which matches the estimated inflows; in alignment with the current FERC Order in place. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw brought up that there was some concern from the public with a gauge not being online this winter at Flint Creek (Southern Cross gauge). Commissioner Adler reassured that it goes off every winter. It's known that there are 6 CFS going out per Flint Creek Hydro's accurate measurements.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES; The Commissioners discussed the annual Christmas gifts for all county employees. Commissioner McLure suggested trying different gifts this year i.e. turkey or gift cards. Commissioner Adler suggested seeing what a ham/turkey cost and basing the gift card amount off of that and Commissioner McLure disagreed. Commissioner McLure thinks the gift card for \$25 is a better route, some employees' hams from last year are still in freezers. Commissioners Assistant to get a hold of Huffman's and order gift cards at \$25 for all county employees. Commissioner Hinkle moved to get county employees each \$25 gift cards and Commissioner Adler seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS; The Commissioners went into a closed session to discuss private matters regarding Board appointments.

The Commission resumed their open meeting session. Commissioner McLure noted there are 4 applications for board appointments/reappointments; Vicki Weaver for the Weed Board, reappointment. Commissioner Adler motioned to reappoint Vicki to the Weed Board. Commissioner Hinkle seconded. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously. Renee McLure Area V Board – Commissioner Adler motioned to appoint Rene McLure to the Area V Board. Commissioner Hinkle seconded. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to re-advertise the Cemetery Board position. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. No public comments were received and the motion passed unanimously.

MONTHLY CLAIMS; The Commission reviewed monthly claims. The Commission discussed a claim for a water pump for one of the sheriff's rigs. The claim appears to be more work done than just the water pump and Commissioner Adler will follow up with the dealership with a phone call. Commissioner Hinkle brought up a claim for sand and commented how it should be put out to bid. Commissioner Adler said they have bought some

from Drummond and Philipsburg area depending on where the job is. Commissioner Adler motioned to accept the claims. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion carried unanimously.

FEDERAL, STATE, & COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION VOTE CANVASS FOR GRANITE COUNTY; Clerk and Recorder Sarah Graham joined the Commissioners and presented them with election totals. The Commissioners reviewed a print out from Elect MT. Ballot reconciliation sheet came out perfect Sarah Stated. There were 2208 ballots counted. It was noted, that 81% of registered voters did vote in the County and 92% returned absentee ballots. Number of registered voters in the County being 2745.

Commissioner McLure and Sarah Graham compared numbers from the elections. Commissioner Adler motioned to certify the election in Granite County. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. The motion carried and passed unanimously.

ROAD VIEWERS REPORT FROM SURVEYOR REGARDING COUNTY ROAD PETITIONS ON BROWN'S GULCH, ALGONQUIN, TOWER, AND CLIFF GULCH ROADS; County Attorney Blaine gave a background on the road petition and Professional Land Surveyor Barney Hallin joined the Commissioners for his comments on the Road Viewers Report he drafted. Commissioner Adler raised concerns with people buying land, not getting encroachment permits and asking for forgiveness later when they do anything by a county road. Blaine Bradshaw and Commissioner's assistant will write up a notice for the legal section of the paper that once these are county roads, you need to get an encroachment permit. Commissioner Adler motioned to accepting the road viewers report as received on Browns Gulch, Algonquin Mine, Tower, and Cliff Gulch Roads and setting a public hearing on Tuesday, December 10th at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried and passed unanimously. Commissioner Adler motioned to publish the public hearing notice in the legal section of the paper. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if a second reading would be on the agenda for next week since they came up with a resolution. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that they have a public hearing and then the resolution would have to be on the agenda twice (two readings) after that before final decision. Elena Gagliano asked if they are just agreeing to putting it in the newspaper and the public hearing is December 10th? Blaine and Commissioner Adler said yes. The motion carried and passed unanimously.

WILLOWROCK SURVEYING PROPOSED FEE INCREASE; The Commissioners discussed the proposed increase of survey fees for Hans Bohrnsen of Willowrock Surveying. Commissioner Adler motioned in favor of the fee increase to \$100 per survey and additionally, \$35 per lot. Commissioner Hinkle seconded. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY'S HALL RENTAL HOUSE REPAIR UPDATE; The Commissioners discussed the updates the rental house needs in regards to plumbing and electrical issues. Commissioners' Assistant made phone calls to local plumbers/electricians and the ones that called back are a month out at least to commence any work. Commissioner Adler moved to get on a plumber's work schedule to complete the work needed and it be whoever can get

to it first. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. The motion carried and passed unanimously.

**COURTHOUSE BATHROOM AND ELEVATOR PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS; TCS
Commissioner Adler moved to approve change orders from TCS #6-#9. Commissioner
Hinkle seconded the motion. The motion carried and passed unanimously.**

The Session Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.