

**October 8, 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 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 *Silver State Post Journalist*, Luke Ulatowski; Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; Granite County Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Mickey; Granite County Planner, Linda Bouck; Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Fisheries Biologist, Brad Liermann; Flint Creek Dam Advisory Board Member Ed Simonich; Granite County Courthouse Custodian, Janeen Bonney; TCS Northwest Project Superintendent, Ryon Covington; TCS Northwest Project Coordinator, Brooke Covington; Slate Architecture, Principal Architect, Scott Cromwell; CRCI Consultant, Dave Kauffman; and members of the general public including Elena Gagliano.**

**BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for October 1, 2024; and October 2, 2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano inquiring about the section from the October 1, 2024 meeting minutes concerning the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA). She noted that the County Attorney bringing up BSPRA was absent from the meeting minutes and she feels as though it should be added. Commissioner McLure noted that the minutes are not verbatim quotes, but are summarizes based upon the decisions made in the session (and applicable public comment) and County Attorney did make a comment but it did not pertain directly to the agenda item. Being as it wasn't pertaining to the agenda item she doesn't feel as though it has to be in the meeting minutes. Elena Gagliano disagreed. There were no further public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE;**

**Electronic mail was received from Montana Department of Transportation Bridge Program Specialist, Leanne Moyer requesting information on any bridge construction and repair activity under the County's jurisdiction.**

**The end of period disbursement detail was received from Granite County Justice Court for September 2024; totaling \$8,127.00.**

**Electronic mail was received from MACo providing information about serving on a MACo Committee for 2025.**

**A letter was received from District Ranger, Cameron Rasor concerning the upcoming timber sale in the Maxville area (the Maxville Vegetation Management Project).**

The survey monitoring report was received from Willowrock, Inc. satisfying FERC requirements for the Georgetown Lake Dam no 9/26/2024. This included setting three new control points and revising procedures of surveying.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano inquiring about the details from correspondence and asked what the follow-up was going to be. Commissioner McLure expanded on the details of bridge priorities that the County shared with the MDT in recent months.

**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 on projects across the County. Commissioner Adler explained that the crew is currently completing mowing on Travelers Home, and recently completed maintenance work at the County airports. Commissioner Hinkle raised concern over Blackfoot Communications being able to finish their clean up work on East Fork including cleaning up ditches.

**GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT;** The lake level was reported at 6427.88 feet; 19.44 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. The Commission was joined by Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Fisheries Biologist, Brad Liermann; Flint Creek Dam Advisory Board Member Ed Simonich. Commissioner Adler moved to continue releasing 30 CFS in alignment with the current FERC Order in place. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Ed Simonich commented that he would like to reiterate the recommendations sent last week to go to 6 CFS from the Flint Creek Dam Advisory Committee. Attorney Bradshaw encouraged the Commission to look at the inflows next week at the end of the irrigation season. Brad Liermann commented that the 6 CFS makes sense to FWP, noting that the last report from the DNRC stated that the inflows were 11 CFS and that it would be nice to start refilling the pool. If inflows are more than 10 CFS the County will need to seek a temporary modification order next week at the end of the irrigation season. Elena Gagliano commented that she agrees with both Ed Simonich and Brad Liermann. The Commission agreed that they will seek a temporary modification agreement (consent) to decrease the outflow to 6 CFS at the end of irrigation season on October 15, 2024. The Commission directed Attorney Bradshaw to begin working with the three agencies concerning a potential temporary modification request prior to next week's session. There were no further public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

**GRANITE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CONTRACT WITH BRIDGET PERRY;** The Commission was joined by Granite County Treasurer Ashely Todd who presented the contract renewal with Bridget Perry to serve as the Superintendent of Hall Elementary School. The group discussed that this contract needs to be looked at annually. Ashley Todd explained that the pay increase needs to be reviewed annually so she can receive the COLA increase since she is classified as a short-term employee with an annual contract. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the Granite County School budget for FY 2025 with

approval of COLA retroactive from July 1, 2024. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking for clarification on the Superintendent of Schools. Commissioner McLure explained that the Superintendent of Schools is an Elected Official as it is a combined office with Treasurer's Office. Ashley Todd specified that since she doesn't carry an educator's license the County contracts out to have an accredited teacher to fulfill the duty for the Hall School which falls under her duties as the elected official, similar to having a Special Deputy County Attorney carrying out duties under the County Attorney's Office.

**GRANITE COUNTY SCHOOL BUDGETS;** The Commission reviewed the County school budgets, presented by Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd. Commissioner Adler motioned to approve the Granite County School budgets for FY 2025. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

**MONTHLY CASH REPORTS WITH GRANITE COUNTY TREASURER ASHLEY TODD;** Commission was joined by Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd, who presented the cash reports and pledged securities from February 2024, March 2024, April 2024, and May 2024. Ashley Todd explained that she is working on developing a new spreadsheet that will be available to the public, and will be easy to understand. The Commission reviewed the reports and there were no public comments received.

Public comment – Elena Gagliano clarification are reports going up on the website – Ashley these are my goals going forward -today's reports will be posted to the commissioner's page. Goals is that going forward monthly reports will be regularly posted on the Treasurer's Page.

**MONTHLY CLAIMS;** The Commission reviewed the monthly claims. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the monthly claims for September 2024. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

**LARSON & MORRISON V BRADSHAW & GRANITE COUNTY;** Attorney Bradshaw explained that all the claims will be dismissed against him in federal district court as the US Magistrate recommended that to the U.S. District Court Judge, but that one claim (out of many filed) remains against the County in federal district court. The County will defend the lawsuit and has attorney represented formation MACo. The Commission went into closed session for litigation strategy. There will be more updates in the future.

**RIDDICK FIELD HANGAR 1 LEASE AGREEMENT;** The Commission reviewed the lease agreement for Hangar 1 with Donovan Jones, following last week's Airport Update. Mike Foley still needs to release his lease for Hangar 1. Attorney Bradshaw noted that the Commission can move forward contingent upon receiving a letter from Mike Foley rescinding his lease. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to approve the lease agreement for Hangar 1 at Riddick Field with Donovan Jones contingent upon Mike Foley rescinding his lease agreement for the hangar. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

**OAC MEETING COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR & ADA PROJECT;** The Commission was joined by Granite County Courthouse Custodian, Janeen Bonney; TCS Northwest Project Superintendent, Ryon Covington; TCS Northwest Project Coordinator, Brooke Covington; CRCI Consultant on the roof project, Dave Kauffman; and Slate Architecture, Principal Architect, Scott Cromwell for the monthly OAC meeting. Ryon Covington provided an update of the bathroom projects as well as an update of the broilers. The thermostats will be functioning and the broilers will all be operable in the coming weeks. The elevator is still being fabricated and an exact arrival date has not been received yet. All elevator entryways have to be left open until the actual elevator is installed then they will come back and put the metal frame up and finish the areas. This allows for any measurements that could be off and ensure a perfect transition for installation. They will put up barriers to ensure the public does not fall in. They will be focused on the ADA parking area in the coming month before the weather turns and then will be working on the elevator pit and mechanical room. Ryon Covington explained that they will need a designated phone line attached to the elevator for emergency purposes. The line goes into the mechanical room from the elevator and the County needs to clarify where they would like it go. The County would like it go to 911 dispatch. Ryon Covington added that there may be a second designated phone line for the fire alarm system.

**COURTHOUSE ADA BATHROOM & ELEVATOR PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS - FIRE DOOR WIRING; FLOOR WALL HEATER; RE-ROUTE EXHAUST FANS;** The Commission reviewed the associated change orders with the Courthouse ADA Bathroom and Elevator Project. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the Courthouse ADA Bathroom & Elevator Project Change Orders - Fire Door Wiring; Floor Wall Heater; and the Re-Route Exhaust Fans. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE ROOF DRAWINGS BY SLATE ARCHITECTURE;** The Commission reviewed the Courthouse roof drawing drafted by Slate Architecture. Scott Cromwell explained that Dave Kauffman is who Slate has always used for roof issues, and that they would like to keep engineers out of this project. Dave Kauffman added that after his forensic report he drops down into more complexities and the Courthouse Roof needs a proper team put together in order to have things done correctly so the County can receive a bid that is properly put together. He added that we don't want to have to do this again, we want to do it right it should last for at least 20 years, which is why he would like to work with Slate Architecture to create the bid package. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the Granite County Courthouse Reroof Proposal with Slate Architecture. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously. Dave Kaufman explained the contingency fund that will go into effect with the project.

**WORK SESSION ON PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL AMENDMENTS (HOLIDAY PAY / EMPLOYMENT STATUS;** The Commission reviewed the current policy as written in the Personnel Policy Handbook. They were joined by Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Mickey; and Granite County Treasurer,

**Ashely Todd. Commissioner McLure explained that following the previous week's session the Commission has made some adjustments to the Holiday Policy, presenting red lined version of the document. Commissioner McLure noted that all full-time employees will receive eight hours of holiday pay; and part-time employees will receive a pro-rated holiday based on the number of working hours within the month (pay period). Ashley Todd questioned how holiday pay works for the Solid Waste site employees who may not have a relief employee on staff. The group discussed that if a relief is not available or dependent upon when the holiday falls, the site could be closed; or the employee would receive a floating holiday. The group discussed vacation and sick usage, specifically by part-time employees. It was clarified that it is up to a Department Head to authorize usage of sick and vacation time for all of their employees, and once a Department Head signs the timecard, the usage of that time has been authorized. The group discussed Direct Donations of Sick Leave, and the Clerk & Recorder's Office is working on a form related to the process. Sarah Graham explained that they have also suggested that only the amount of sick leave needed to cover the absence be donated to the employee as opposed to the full 160 hours; meaning any excess hours be returned to those who donated. The time frame in which the employee has to use the hours donated will be notated within the form. The group discussed eliminating the Sick Leave Fund from the policy manual since they recently sent out a survey to weigh employee interest, and received no interest in implementing a Sick Leave Fund. These changes will be put together in a new policy document for review and approval during next weeks session.**

**CAMPBELL FAMILY TRANSFER; REQUEST FOR TWO-YEAR HOLD ON PARCEL 1-A-2 TO BE WAIVED; The Commission was joined by Granite County Planner, Linda Bouck. She explained this family transfer rule was started before the new policy went into effect while this matter was in court and that process had taken longer than the normal process, so they are asking for a waiver on the time-period hold to be able to sell the said Parcel 1-A-2. Linda Bouck recommended granting the requested waiver. Attorney Bradshaw agreed with Linda Bouck's analysis and recommendation, and stated that, in essence, the County Commission would be upholding the District Court's recent decision to divide the property. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the waiver for the Campbell family transfer two-year hold on parcel 1-A-2. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.**

**The Session Adjourned at 12:15 p.m.**