

**August 27, 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 *Philipsburg Mail* Editor, Amelia Wood; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; Granite County DES Coordinator, Jackie Bolster; Local Property Owner, Louis Polinsky; Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance President Robert Littlejohn; Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance Vice-President Maxwell Statler; Granite County Planning Director, Linda Bouck; Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper; and members of the general public including Elena Gagliano and Suzanne Browning.**

**BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for August 20, 2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE;**

**Electronic mail was received from Brittany Jones with the BLM providing updated information and policies regarding the BLM's Public Lands Rule.**

**Electronic mail was received from the Town of Drummond announcing that they have tentatively reserved the Drummond Library for Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for the Joint Sessions Meeting.**

**Electronic mail was received from the Town of Drummond showing pot holes in the bridge on South Main Street.**

**Electronic mail was received from the State Financial Services Division (Local Government Services Bureau) with an attached letter outlining the upcoming budget submission deadline and requirements.**

**Electronic mail was received from David Strohmaier the Chairperson of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority with an attached letter outlining comments from the Authority following a session with the Granite County Commissioners where the County decided to withdraw from BSPRA.**

**Written public comments were received from Suzanne Browning concerning the withdrawal of the County from Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority. This will be discussed during the First**

**Reading of Resolution 2024-15; A Granite County Resolution to Withdraw from Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority.**

Electronic mail was received from Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance President, Robert Littlejohn explaining that he will be attending Federal Law Enforcement training in Georgia for the next seven months, and that Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance Vice-President, Maxwell Statler will be serving as Interim Chief in his absence.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance President, Robert Littlejohn explained that since he will be in Georgia for the next seven months he wanted to come up and introduce Maxwell Statler; as well as thank the Commissioners for their support in rebuilding in the Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance Association. Maxwell Statler introduced himself.

**ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT;** Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt joined the session. Commissioner McLure began the session by reviewing the Road budget for FY 2025. Paul Alt provided an update on projects across the County, currently, the Road Crew is working up at Echo Lake and should be wrapped up tomorrow. The Crew will then begin work up at Travelers Home. Paul Alt will have Blackfoot sweep the roads at Maxville then the Crew will begin Dura patching in that area. The electronic speed signs have not been placed up at Georgetown Lake, but the Road Crew is still working on it. If the signs are not in place by Labor Day, Paul Alt will ask the Sheriff's Office to place their speed trailer on Georgetown Lake Road. Commissioner Hinkle inquired when mowing will start. Paul Alt responded that as soon as the Crew wraps up some projects they will begin mowing, as they need to have a water truck on site. Paul Alt asked for clarification on overages, and when taxpayers can purchase units to avoid overages. The Commissioners agreed that taxpayers can purchase additional units prior to the end of the fiscal year in which they are incurring overages.

**LITTLE GOLD COIN ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT;** The Commission discussed the replacement of the culvert on Little Gold Coin Road following a recent discussion with the USFS over jurisdiction. Paul Alt stated that he went up to the area and looked and the area does need some gravel, but in order to get gravel up to the culverts that the road needs additional work, as this portion is a non-maintained County Road. The question of jurisdiction is still unclear. Attorney Bradshaw noted that the USFS has done some research on this issue and that this road along with some others will be an issue on an upcoming agenda. He recommended the Commission get some clarification on the issue and clear up the matter of jurisdiction as we move forward.

**GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT;** The lake level was reported at 6428.46 feet; 12.48 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. The Commission discussed the "two-foot rule". Commissioner Hinkle moved to continue releasing 30 CFS in alignment with the current

**FERC Order in place. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.**

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

**POTENTIAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN GRANITE COUNTY; The Commission reviewed the current fire restrictions in place (Stage I Restrictions with no campfires being allowed). Commissioner Adler noted that the Commission should likely just stay the same. Commissioner Hinkle noted that hunting season is coming, but that the Commission could stay as is for now. Commissioner Hinkle moved to remain at Stage I Fire Restrictions with no campfires allowed. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.**

**AREA V AGREEMENT WITH GRANITE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH FY 2025 CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS; The Commission reviewed contract modifications between Area V and Granite County Public Health for FY 2025. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the Area V Agreement Contract Modifications for FY 2025. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.**

**POSTING OF COMMISSIONER'S ASSISTANT POSITION INTERNALLY; There were no internal applications turned in for the Commissioner's Assistant position that was advertised internally for one week, despite initial internal interest. The Commission will now post the position externally for two weeks.**

**The Commission went into Closed Session for Litigation Strategy with County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw.**

**LOUIS POLINSKY TO DISCUSS LAND OWNERSHIP ISSUES; The Commission was joined by local landowner in Maxville, Louis Polinsky who raised concern over the abandonment of an ally way in 1998 by the Granite County Commission in which he claims the ally way property was transferred solely to him as opposed to being abandoned with half transferred to him (to centerline) and half being transferred to the neighboring property owner (to centerline). The neighboring property owners (the Moores) have continued paying taxes on the portion that was abandoned to them; and this portion is one that Louis Polinsky claims is not their property and is his. He stated he has supporting documentation in the form of a quiet title judgment from Granite County District Court, asking that the Commissioners do something. Granite County Planning Director, Linda Bouck explained that the Moores and Mr. Polinsky came in to see her, because they were both paying taxes on the same strip of property. When the ally was abandoned years ago, each property owner got half (to centerline of ally); however, when Mr. Polinsky went to court on a separate issue the Court was informed that Mr. Polinsky owned the whole ally. She told Mr. Polinsky that the County cannot solve this issue and that this is a matter for the State Assessor's Office. Commissioner McLure noted that when Mr. Polinsky went to Court the Court thought he**

owned the whole ally and not half of the roadway. Mr. Polinsky responded that his title search says that he owns the whole ally and that the Moores own a 10' by 10' block. It was discussed that neither the Moores (nor their predecessors in interest) were ever notified of the quiet title litigation or brought in as parties to the litigation over the abandoned ally way property and that there is cloud on the title which needs to be cleared up, and that is not something the County Commission can assist with. Attorney Bradshaw referred Mr. Polinsky to work with his Title Company that insured his title; and that the County did their job and followed the right process in the abandonment of the ally. Commissioner McLure explained that based on the advice from the County Attorney and Planner that Mr. Polinsky will need to work with his Title Company that insured his title; and that there is nothing they can do for him.

**RESOLUTION 2024-15; A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW FROM BIG SKY PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY; FIRST READING; The Commission reviewed Resolution 2024-15 and read from the public comment received in writing form Suzanne Browning: August 27, 2024; RE: August 27, 2024 Commission Agenda Item; 11:20 a.m. - Resolution 2024-15 to Withdraw from Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority; First Reading; Granite County Commissioners: For the record, I have public comment and questions, on the above agenda item, in regards to withdrawing from the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority. The resolution states that Board of Granite County Commissioners now desire to formally withdraw, from the BSPRA, as they question the project's economic feasibility. What or why do you not see being a member as economic feasible? The Granite County Commissioners deemed it feasible, in October of 2020, when you became a founding member of Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority. I assume you were acting in the best interest of Granite County constituents when you adopted Resolution 2020-19, are you now? Dave Strohmaier, BSPRA Chairman, stated there is no required fee or dues to be a member. Though, monetary volunteer contributions are appreciated and for the county to appoint someone to represent them on their board. It is feasible to "think outside the box". The Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority needs county and community support, for their vision and mission. Regards, Suzanne Browning. The Commission discussed Suzanne Browning's comments. Commissioner Adler noted that he does believe they are acting in the best interest of Granite County with their actions. Commissioner Hinkle agreed. Public comment was received from Mayor Leeper asking why the Commissioners decided to pull away from the BSPRA. Commissioner Adler responded that there is not enough information on the execution of the project. Commissioner Hinkle echoed the same sentiment, stating that there are not enough facts to support the project coming full circle. The group discussed the project funding as well as the low probability of a stop in Drummond. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano discussing the project's economic feasibility, comparing the County supporting projects such as those at Riddick Field. She noted that the majority of the people in Drummond and Philipsburg are in support of this project and that BSPRA would have a further reaching affect on those living the County than projects at Riddick Field. She also thanked Mayor Leeper for Drummonds contribution to BSPRA.**

**The regular session adjourned at 11:39 a.m.**

**COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET HEARING:** Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham joined the Commission to review the budgets for FY 2025. The Commission began with the General Fund and then walked through and reviewed each levied and non-levied fund. The Commission then opened the floor for public comment. Public comment was received from Suzanne Browning inquiring to monies being used from PILT. Commissioner McLure explained that monies were being taken out of PILT to support the Elevator / ADA Project (\$40K); compensated absences fund (\$30K); and the road fund (\$467K). The group discussed that the ARPA funds have all been expended towards the Elevator / ADA Project. Suzanne Browning inquired about the Sheriff's Office Budget questioning if he would need more funding to support a vehicle for another full-time Deputy. Commissioner Adler responded that there is funding available from other sources that have been compensated for within the FY 2025 budget. Suzanne Browning inquired about the details of the Road Budget, asking if the new grader that was purchased would have to have a payment during FY 2025. The Commission responded that it would not need a payment until FY 2026 and the group discussed how the trade in option would work on the piece of equipment.

**RESOLUTION 2024-16 A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET WITH SALARIES AND COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES; FIRST READING:** The Commission reviewed the Resolution and opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.