

October 1, 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 Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd; Ahnna Reid with Granite Headwaters Watershed Group; Granite County Airport Board Chairperson, Donovan Jones; Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Amanda Boher; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; Granite County Public Health Nurse, Debbie Robinson; and members of the general public including Elena Gagliano and Heidi Hinkle.

BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for September 24, 2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano noting that Amelia Woods no longer works for the newspaper and that Luke Ulatowski is the journalist attending the meetings. The meeting minutes for September 24, 2024 were adjusted. There were no further public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Electronic mail was received from Fire Management Specialist with the BLMC, Dan Poole. He explained that the Missoula Field Office would be conducting a 105-acre moderate complexity burn (prescribed burn) on October 1, 2024 in the Lower Blackfoot Corridor.

Electronic mail was received from Granite Headwaters inviting the Commissioners to a presentation on “Long-term Trends and Recent Changes in Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Populations and the Impact of Water Quality on these fisheries in Georgetown Lake” on October 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Granite Museum.

Meeting Minutes and recommendations were received from the Flint Creek Dam Advisory Committee from their September 19, 2024 meeting. The group raised concerns over the lake level and recommended that the County decrease the outflows to 6 CFS at the end of irrigation season for a one-month time frame.

A meeting agenda and invitation from the Beaverhead-Deer Lodge Working Group (citizen-based committee of people who represent key interests, geographic balance, and knowledge of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest) was received for their upcoming meeting on October 2, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Elena Gagliano inquired about past correspondence that was received from the Department of revenue concerning Town Hall Meetings in October. She asked if a Commissioner will be attending the meeting. There will not be a Commissioner attending the session to discuss Property Taxes. Commissioner McLure explained she attended the last meeting and explained the property tax process the County must follow, which is set by the State. Elena Gagliano thanked Commissioner McLure for her explanation, commenting that since so many people attended the last meeting the State was holding the meetings again. She noted that the constituents are upset, and that the spending needs to get under control.

Commissioner McLure noted that at the annual conference they showed information about Dust Pods that she wanted to share with her fellow Commissioners and the Road Department. Paul Alt responded that he would reach out to the representative to get more information.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt joined the session to provide an update on projects across the County. The Crew is currently completing work on Travelers Home and then they will start hauling salt and sand down in Hall. Commissioner Hinkle noted that the grass needs to be mowed, and asked when Paul Alt is going to split the crew. Paul Alt responded that he would like to split the crew beginning November 1, 2024; but it is weather dependent. Commissioner Adler commented that a resident off of Brewster Creek, commented on how great their road looks.

Nothing to report on Solid Waste. Chad Lanes looked at the plans for the septic at the Drummond Solid Waste location.

The Group discussed Granite Road and the update from James Prusa. Paul Alt responded that if James Prusa wants to put a pipe (culvert) in that he should go ahead and do it. The County Road Department has other areas on maintained county roads) that are higher on the list, and they won't get to it this year. There is an agreement in place in which Mr. Prusa and his group may do some limited maintenance on Granite Road. Commissioner Hinkle commented that Paul Alt should meet with James Prusa to ensure the pipe (culvert) is put in correctly. Paul Alt responded that he would reach out to James Prusa.

Maxville resident, Louis Polinsky called into the Commissioners Office last week concerning a culvert that he would like to see replaced on Little Gold Road. Paul Alt explained that there is nothing wrong with the culvert, but that other areas of the road likely need addressed. The County is still working with the USFS concerning jurisdiction and easements on Little Gold. A letter with information concerning Little Gold will come from the Commissioner's Office and Paul Alt will call Louis Polinsky to discuss the matter.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6428.03 feet; 17.64 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. 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. Attorney Bradshaw noted the importance of understanding what the inflows are on October 15, 2024, outlining the details of the FERC order. The lesser of 10 CFS or actual inflows must be let out commencing October 15, 2024 (end of irrigation season) unless a temporary modification request is agreed upon by the three applicable agencies.

FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS; The Commission was joined by Granite County Public Health Nurse, Deb Robinson. She explained that by applying for the Foundational Public Health Services Improvement Grant, the County could receive up to \$10K to support the development of a good framework as well as the sustainability of the Department (this includes training costs, etc.). This also supports the path to accreditation, and in the future accreditation will be important in order for our Public Health Department to receive other funding. Commissioner Hinkle asked for more details. Commissioner McLure outlined the importance of building a strong program with the support of the State. Commissioner Adler moved to approve applying for the Foundational Public Health Services Improvement Grant. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL SHEET ON GRANITE COUNTY LUXURY VEHICLE TAX; The Commission reviewed the drafted informational sheet, noting that updates need to be made specifically where the sheet states the money would be allocated to the Treasurer's Office; as the County can't designate to a particular department. Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd joined the session and the group discussed how the 50% needs to spent. Attorney Bradshaw explained that the designation will be done through a County resolution. Ashley Todd requested the removal of the last line (bullet point 5) as it is redundant of verbiage already included. Attorney Bradshaw commented that he will make the changes and clarify the last statement in the draft. The group discussed tracking the additional expenses the Treasurer's Office incurs from Motor Vehicle operations. Ashley Todd discussed some of the expenses the County is going to incur through the roll out of the new Motor Vehicle Program in March of 2025. The Commission would like the informational sheet posted on the Granite County website as well as have it ran in the newspaper throughout the month of October (they will minimize the information from the sheet to be ran in the paper). Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the informational sheet with the changes and to run the first page in the local newspaper throughout the month of October and distribute where necessary. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking for clarification on how the funds are received and provided to each Town. Ashley Todd responded that the funds are distributed based off the most recent census. There were no further public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

DONOVAN JONES WITH A GRANITE COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD UPDATE; Granite County Airport Chairperson, Donovan Jones joined the Commission for an update on overall operations. He explained that in regard to the Airport Layout Plan there are not currently any updates from the FAA; nor are there any updates from the DNRC in regard to the project. The major equipment for the Airport Beacon has been ordered and is expected in the next 10 weeks. For the maintenance report, Donovan explained that they had a 5010 inspection and the report recommended repainting runway numbers, repairing damaged runway edge light, and adding a runway intersection sign. The Airport Board has created a working group that began working on the maintenance projects this past weekend. Donovan Jones presented a development plan for Hangar 1 & 2. He explained that Hangar 1 is currently owned by Granite County and leased to Mike Foley. Mr. Foley will soon be selling his aircraft and does not have a future need for the hangar space. Donovan Jones would like to propose that both Hangar 1 and Hangar 2 lease areas are combined to construct a larger 47' x 90' hangar with a pilot's office. This would greatly benefit the airport. Both hangars in question are in poor condition and in need of substantial repairs to be usable. This space would be sufficient for up to (3) smaller general aviation aircraft or (1) larger aircraft and would mainly serve transient aircraft. The proposed improvement would be fully funded and managed by Donovan Jones with construction estimated to start in the summer of 2025. Attorney Bradshaw explained that a new lease on Hangar 1 would need to be on a future agenda and that the County would need a letter from Mike Foley stating he releases his current lease. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the preliminary development plan for Hangar 1 & Hangar 2 at Riddick Field; as long as Mike Foley releases his lease on Hangar 1. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano inquiring what revenue is generated off of the hangar leases. The County reviewed the information and Commissioner McLure explained that for FY 2024, \$41,705 was generated in revenue. Specifically, the County generates \$1800 of the leases annually. Elena Gagliano raised concern over improvements to airport. She commented that the only people who benefit from the airport are those with private planes, and raised safety concerns. Attorney Bradshaw noted that the airport is used by emergency services including those stationed in the area for wildfire mitigation, as well as by those traveling to the area, generating revenue in tourism dollars for local business. The County also benefits if the USFS is using the site for wildfire purposes. Donovan Jones added that the airport is managed by the FAA for public safety. Elena Gagliano provided public comment regarding the BSPRA, which the Commission disallowed because it was not related to the motion or the agenda item. There were no further public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

INTERPRETATION OF THE COUNTY'S PERSONNEL POLICY HANDBOOK ON HOLIDAY PAY; The Commission reviewed the current policy as written in the Personnel Policy Handbook. They were joined by Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham. Commissioner McLure explained that after reviewing the policy in regard to Holiday Pay and reaching out to MACo for interpretation that the County will need to pay out multiple

employees that were supposed to receive Holiday Pay. She noted that this section of the handbook was mis-interpreted by the Payroll Department, which is why she had put it on the agenda for discussion; and that the wording can be confusing within the policy. The group discussed the matter of holiday pay, noting that part-time permanent employees should be receiving pro-rated holiday pay. Attorney Bradshaw and MACo (McKenzie McCarthy) both weighed in on the matter with the same determination. Commissioner McLure noted that this matter was not meant to raise havoc in the C&R Office, but to ensure everyone was on the same page. The group discussed the difference between short-term employees and permanent part-time employees. It was noted that the “short-term” status is meant for employees that will only be working within a one-year time frame and not year-over-year. There was confusion regarding a section in the Personnel Handbook where “short-term / fill-in & relief workers” was used as subheading, and all relief employees were being paid as “short-term” as opposed to their designated status as part-time permanent employees. Commissioner McLure explained that if an employee is hired as a short-term employee, that it is outlined within their offer letter stating the amount of days they are eligible for work, the end date for their employment, and a statement informing the employee that they are not eligible for benefits. The group also discussed the calculation to determine a pro-rated holiday, noting the handbook revolves around a two-week pay period. The C&R Office is currently calculating the rate based on the average amount of hours in pay period. The Commission decided that it would be necessary to have a work-session to amend the policy within the personnel manual to include correcting the subheading “short-term / fill-in & relief workers” by eliminating “fill-in & relief workers” to avoid future confusion. The group will also correct the holiday hour calculation from the 10 working days (assume a pay period every two weeks, but it is monthly in the County), to the average amount of working hours within the month (the County’s pay-period). In the upcoming work session, the group would also like to look at the holiday pay for full-time employees. Commissioner McLure noted that it should be a full 8 hours of holiday or 10 if a union agreement applies. Sarah Graham inquired about part-time accrual, noting that some employees have the holiday as a regular 8 hour working day, but because they are part-time they do not generate 8 hours of holiday pay to cover the day. It was noted that if they adjusted the accrual of holiday pay it would have to be for all part-time (permanent) employees not just a select few. It was agreed upon that once an employee is hired a memo will be sent to the C&R Office outlining the pay and designated employment status. This work session will be on an upcoming agenda. Commissioner Adler moved to provide corrected pay retroactively to effected employees that covers the time period from January 2024 through September 2024. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and motion passed unanimously.

ROOF DRAWINGS BY SLATE ARCHITECTURE; The Commission reviewed the documentation provided by Slate Architecture. They would like more time to review the document and possibly discuss it more with Scott Cromwell from Slate. The Commission tabled the matter for an upcoming agenda.

The Commission adjourned the regular session at 10:30 a.m. to attend the Town of Philipsburg's Sewer Project Tour.