

October 15, 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, Commission Assistant Miranda 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 Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Financial Auditor, Don Davies; Granite County Public Health Nurse, Deb Robinson; Public Health & Safety Coordinator, Jackie Bolster; Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; Granite County Planner, Linda Bouck; Developer Matt Homerstein; and members of the general public including Scott McDonald, and Elena Gagliano.

QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING; Granite County Public Health Nurse, Deb Robinson; Public Health & Safety Coordinator, Jackie Bolster; and the Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw. Commissioner McLure called the meeting to order and served as Chairperson, since Chairperson Ashley Westphal was not in attendance. Commissioner Adler moved to accept the board minutes for July 15, 2024. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes was not in attendance and he provided a written report explaining that onsite septic development has been busy, as well as plan reviews for food businesses with a heavy emphasis on mobile food units. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano inquiring who the chair of Board of Health is. The Commission explained that it is Ashely Westphal and she is not in attendance.

Granite County Public Health Nurse, Deb Robinson provided a quick update of Public Health Department Operations explaining that they have been busy with flu shot clinics across the County. The Blue Cross / Blue Shield Van is providing shots this week in various locations. There are two grants the Department is working on, one would be to provide health education to County Schools, and another would be for foundational support, focused on improving competencies and policies within the Department. Deb Robinson explained that they have updated the Pandemic Influenza Plan for 24-25, making it more relevant to Granite County operations, and has asked the board to review and approve the plan. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the Pandemic Influenza Plan Update for 2024-2025. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking where the documents are located online. She was directed to their location. Commissioner Hinkle inquired to what specific updates have occurred over last year's plan. Deb Robinson explained the plan is focused on Granite County operations and people as opposed to Anaconda-Deer Lodge (ADLC) since they are no longer working with a

contracted service under ADLC's Public Health Department. Commissioner Hinkle removed his second from the motion due to the over-mentioning of COVID-19 within the plan. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano raising concern over some formatting issues. Deb Robinson will address these matters. There were no further public comments received and the motion passed two to one with Commissioner Hinkle dissenting. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano raising concern over a quorum being present for the last motion. Attorney Bradshaw explained that a majority of the quorum carries the vote, and that a quorum (3 of 5 board of health members) was present at the meeting as all of the County Commissioners are present. Elena Gagliano stated she does not think there is a voting quorum.

Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Jackie Bolster explained that the PHEP deliverables are going well, which includes updating the Pandemic Influenza Plan for 2024-2025. She will also be attending FEMA classes the month.

Tobacco Prevention Report – Amanda Borher was not in attendance. Commissioner Adler raised concern that Amanda Borher did not provide a report and asked that she be contact to ensure a report is provided for the next Board of Health Meeting.

The next board meeting will be on January 14, 2025. The Board of Health Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for October 8, 2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Electronic mail was received from Montana Department of Transportation Bridge Program Specialist, Leanne Moyer with an attached County bridge inspection report summary for Quarter 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano regarding the Board of Health Meeting, she questioned a document. She recommended the County start using screensharing to solve any confusion.

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 Crews have been dura patching and blading roads as well as preparing for a pipe implementation project in the Hall area. Paul Alt would like to know where the Commission would like to purchase material from. Weaver's Pit is the closest pit to the site and the County has already fulfilled their contractual obligation for gravel purchases from earlier this summer. Paul Alt explained that they will need less than 1K yards for the project.

Commissioner Hinkle noted that the Crew did a beautiful job cleaning up ditches following Blackfoot Communications contract workers out on East Fork Road. The Commission stated that Blackfoot should be billed for the work. Paul Alt added that there are more projects that the County is going to have to clean up for Blackfoot, and that they will keep track and send one bill at the end of the season. Attorney Bradshaw will contact Blackfoot via email to let them know that the County will be addressing some the issues they had asked Blackfoot to fix, and will be sending a bill at the end of the season. The group discussed that there will be additional work that has to be completed in the Maxville area in the coming weeks as part of the cleanup. Paul Alt stated Blackfoot Communications would be better off paying the County for the work to ensure the work is done to County specifications. The group discussed Lakeshore Drive. Paul Alt noted that the roadway will need be graded prior to snowfall to enable County equipment to plow snow. Attorney Bradshaw commented that safety concerns need to remain the utmost concern of the Commission. Commissioner Hinkle suggested writing a letter to the USFS asking them to grade the road once more before winter to enable the County to safely plow the roadway this winter. Paul Alt clarified that the roadway will just need spot bladed. Commissioner Hinkle commented there are some places on East Fork Road that he thinks that barricades could be placed. He has spoken to Paul Alt about this matter, and they will go look at it.

Solid Waste Report – The Commission was joined by Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd who inquired about the implementation of cash boxes at the Solid Waste Sites. She noted the in the past minutes it discusses the cash boxes being implemented in June of 2023, but they never were. She asked if there was a reason behind this. There was not, and the Commission asked that the boxes be implemented. The group discussed balancing, which will need to happen nightly and customers will have to be issued receipts. Ashley Todd discussed that there has been an increase in cash transactions with the adjustments to the “pay-as-you-go” program, which is mostly seen during the summer months. She suggested that in the future the Commission look at potentially implementing a small floor safe (approximately \$90) if there are larger amounts of cash being received and kept at the Sites. Currently the Drummond Solid Waste Site will have deposits picked up monthly and the Philipsburg Solid Waste Site will have deposits picked up weekly. Ashley Todd requested the Commission review the Solid Waste Policy and adjust the minimum charge for the “pay-as-you-go” program to \$8.00 from \$7.50 to make balancing and making change simpler. This matter will be on a future agenda.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER’S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6427.79 feet; 20.52 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender’s report for the week. The Commission discussed the end of the irrigation season and decreasing the outflow to 6 CFS. During last weeks session they had discussed seeking temporary modification consent from the three relevant government agencies, and directed Attorney Bradshaw to begin working on the process. He reached out to the three agencies and two granted consent to decrease the outflow to 6 CFS. They are waiting to hear back from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Commissioner Hinkle moved to decrease the outflow to 10 CFS unless a temporary modification consent is granted allowing

them to decrease the outflow to 6 CFS; in alignment with the current FERC Order in place. He noted that if we receive sufficient precipitation that the County will need to increase the CFS back to 10 CFS. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

LOWER WILLOW CREEK SUBDIVISION PRELIMINARY PLAT APPROVAL; The Commission was joined by Granite County Planning Director, Linda Bouck. She explained that the Lower Willow Creek subdivision is next to the Lower Willow Creek Reservoir Dam. Everything within the subdivision is typical, and it is noted that they cannot build in the flood plain. However, the one thing that is unique, is that the road that goes over to the Dam is a County Road. There is a petition that has been submitted to abandon that portion of the County Road that will be discussed later on the agenda. The way the findings are written, it states that the road needs to be abandon or shown on the plat. The irrigators have signed off on the road abandonment, as they all have secure easements in place, but the Commission can review this during the upcoming agenda item. The Planning Board recommended approval with conditions. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the Lower Willow Creek subdivision preliminary plat with conditions. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL AUDITOR DON DAVIES WITH THE COUNTY'S FY 2023 FINANCIAL AUDIT; The Commission was joined by Financial Auditor, Don Davies who presented the County's FY 2023 Financial Audit. Also joining the session were Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd and Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham. Don Davies stated it was an unmodified audit (clean opinion) and financially the County is in good shape. He recommended the County stay with their Intercap Loan as opposed to trying to refinance it, which is what he has seen some other clients do. Don Davies discussed compliance with State and Federal laws, noting that the County was a little late with this audit, but have been getting better. He discussed that this is not uncommon across the State following COVID. Commissioner Adler moved to accept the FY 2023 Financial Audit. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

REQUESTED LEASE AMENDMENT FOR EDWARDS TRACT A MARINA PROJECT; Attorney Bradshaw explained that a relevant statute only allows maximum civil liability exposure to the County as being \$750K per occurrence and \$1.5M aggregate. The current lease agreement outlines requirements of \$1.5M per occurrence and \$2M aggregate. Commissioner Adler moved to amend the lease agreement with Edwards Tract A Marina Project's insurance requirements to align with the statute. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if the new lease would be on next weeks agenda for signature. Attorney Bradshaw confirmed. There were no further public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

GRANITE COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (LEAVE / HOLIDAY PAY); The Commission was joined by Granite County Treasurer, Ashley Todd and Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham. The group reviewed the updated draft of the Employee Leave Policy following the previous weeks work session.

Commissioner McLure walked the group through the changes. The group discussed the calculation process for pro-rated vacation, sick, and holiday pay for part-time permanent employees. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the amendments to the Granite County Personnel Policy Leave / Holiday Pay. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano stating that the Clerk & Recorder should go over the amendments and respond to questions instead of everyone discussing to eliminate the confusion. Sarah Graham responded that the Commission sets the policy and that her Office carries out the policy set. She added that the Commission is currently just working on cleaning up policy in the employee handbook. There were no further public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McLure clarified that employees need to notify their Department Head that it is their anniversary date, and then a Department Head will complete a review. Once the review is completed it will come to the Commissioners office for filing. This will be clarified in the policy manual when a full revision is completed in the coming year.

PETITION TO ABANDON COUNTY ROAD THAT INTERSECTS LOWER WILLOW CREEK ROAD, BEING LOCATED AT AND CROSSING OVER 460 LOWER WILLOW CREEK ROAD, HALL MT; RECEIVE & REVIEW FOR COMPLETENESS; CALL FOR ROAD INVESTIGATION; Attorney Bradshaw explained that the County Road (Lower Willow) crosses the Minor subdivision on Lower Willow Creek and that this is a petition to abandon just a portion of the roadway; the portion leading to the Dam. The petition has a sufficient amount of County landowner signatures and no one has objected. Attorney Bradshaw added that no one benefits other than the landowners, but that the petition can be accepted as complete. He explained that a Road Inspection with surveyor Hans Bohrnsen and Commissioner Adler can be scheduled and then they will need to begin the public hearing process. Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the Petition to Abandon County Road that Intersects Lower Willow Creek Road (Located at and Crossing over 460 Lower Willow Creek Road, Hall MT) as complete; and to move forward with the statutory process. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking when this matter will be put back on the agenda. Attorney Bradshaw explained that they will need to schedule the road inspection first and after that has been completed it will be advertised in the paper for two weeks for a public hearing to be held. There were no further public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

The Session Adjourned at 11:45 p.m.