

September 9, 2025

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 Adler, Commissioner McLure, and Commissioner Kulaski. Also attending were Commissioners' Assistant Maranda Williams and Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, who participated in a portion of the agenda items in person. The session was live-streamed through the Zoom internet-based program available for the public to view the session and provide public 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 members of the general public, Elena Gagliano via phone on zoom. Justine Richmond via phone on zoom, and A. Tobin via Zoom.

Commissioner Adler requested that microphones and videos be enabled for Zoom attendees who wish to make public comments during the meeting.

QUARTERLY SAFETY MEETING; Jackie Bolster, Dee Dunkerson, Don Smith, Brodie Loushin, and Rody Holman joined the commissioners for the Quarterly Safety Meeting. Dee Dunkerson moved to approve the minutes from the June 3rd meeting. Don Smith seconded. Brodie Loushin asked if the commissioners need anything from him. Jackie and Brodie updated reports. Mark Rosenleaf with Montana State Fund was excused from this meeting. No updates from Don Smith and Dee Dunkerson. Jackie Bolster visited with Val Cartwright, and they continually have spiders in front cell and bathroom. Sticky traps were discussed to set out. They do get it professionally sprayed. Paul Alt didn't have an update either. Solid Waste: Todd Bahsteter completed his training on hazardous materials. Safety trainings have been done on a regular basis. Rody Holman updated the Commissioners with the loss runs from workers' comp and package policy loss runs. All in all, going well. Indemnity claims policy hit the hardest. If it's a medical-only claim, then the indemnity claim goes against the county. Went over the MACo PCT member loss run. Jackie asked about the AED's upgrade. Brodie Loushin said to be careful to get refurbished ones. New ones would come with a warranty, most likely. Jackie suggested replacing the oldest ones. As long as they are maintaining them can keep them in circulation. Jackie will look into the 911 fund or CARES fund or County Building. These would be for the squad vehicles. Commissioner Adler moved to adjourn, Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner McLure moved to accept the Board minutes for September 2, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. No public comment was received, and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Mail was received from the American Medical Association to submit nominations for the 2026 American Medical Association Awards for Outstanding Government Service.

Electronic Mail was received from Sarah Kleinhanzl with a reminder for the Granite County CWPP Kickoff Training on Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, from 10-2:30 at the Valley Fire Hall in Drummond.

An electronic mail was received from Kristen Thompson with an update on the Cutaway Fire up East Fork Creek.

Electronic mail was received from HDR with meeting minutes from the project kickoff call.

Electronic mail was received from Todd Blythe with an update on Georgetown Lake elevation data.

Electronic mail was received from the MTDOT asking for any planned construction projects or maintenance activities that will occur by October 17, 2025.

Electronic mail was received from Kate Wade with the Local Government Center Quarterly Newsletter.

Electronic mail correspondence between Justine Richmond, Blaine Bradshaw, and Maranda Williams was received concerning policies, laws, and questions for the commissioners.

Mail was received from Flint Creek Valley Bank with the Granite Justice Court August Disbursements in the total of \$5,838.50.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Rue discussed the big sky Passenger Rail reengagement by Granite County. Chair Dave Strohmaier of Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority sent a resolution draft a few days ago. The matter will be on an upcoming Commission agenda for action.

2025-2026 COUNTY INSURANCE AGENTS COMMISSION CHECK FOR DISBURSEMENT; AGENT'S APPOINTMENT AND AGREEMENT; Rody Holman joined the Commission for this portion of the meeting. Per Granite County's agreement with MACo insurance trust, the insurance agent fees (commission wages) are collected by MACo through the premiums the County pays, and then are paid by MACo to the County, but the check was sent to the Commission to present to the County's insurance against, March-McLennam Agency (Rody Holman). Rody Holman said a draft insurance agent agreement for the upcoming year needs to be negotiated and said they need a final proposed contract to the County soon. This contract was tabled until further notice. Rody Holman said if he and the insurance agency can do something better, now would be a good time to discuss, but it's a continuous process. The amount of check written to the insurance agency was for \$20,988.70 (check issued by MACo but ultimately paid by County). Commissioner McLure moved to accept the disbursement from MACo property and casualty trust. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. Blaine Bradshaw said this is contractually owed payment to MarshMcLennan. MACO wanted the checks to be hand-delivered by the the counties for transparency. That amount is embedded in the insurance premiums the County pays. The motion passed unanimously.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt was excused from this meeting. Commissioner Adler didn't have much of an update from the Road Department, but they are trying to get caught up before winter.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICTS WEEKLY UPDATES FROM PHILIPSBURG AND DRUMMOND LOCATIONS; Todd Bahsteter and John Kendall submitted their reports for the Commission. Commissioner Adler inquired about the backhoe. Todd mentioned that he would have local equipment mechanic, Nick Kesler inspect it. Servicing it in mid-October. Blaine Bradshaw mentioned the concerns Todd Bahsteter has with changing oil (and hydraulic hoses) at the site without the property tools, etc. Todd Bahsteter desires to check just oil and fluid levels, and leave oil changes, changing out hoses, and other mechanic work to a certified mechanic. The Commission asked the Commissioner's assistant to reach out and make if the backhoe is broken down or not. The Town of Philipsburg got a dumpster to put out by Junk Vehicle for their waste from the town sewer, which has nothing to do with the County and is on Town property not part of the solid waste lease the County has lessee.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDERS REPORT; According to the USGS lake level gauge and the dam tender's report for the week, the lake level was reported at 6428.11 feet, 16.68 inches below full pool. Commissioner Kulaski moved to stay at 30 CFS. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRE RESTRICTION UPDATE; Granite County will stay at stage 1 fire restrictions.

RESOLUTION 2025-11: A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION SETTING GRANITE COUNTY'S ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPUTIES, AND A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR CERTAIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES; SECOND READING; Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept 2025-11. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously. Title III funds were discussed, and the Georgetown Lake Fire Service Area would need consent from the Forest Service to make any improvements to the fire hall at Piney Point as it is on Forest Service property, and such consent should be made in writing, then the County can send the fire service area a check from the Title III funding.

RESOLUTION 2025-12: A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE METHOD OF LEVYING VOTED MILLS PER 2025 ADOPTED MONTANA HOUSE BILLS 231 & 542; SECOND READING; Commissioner McLure moved to approve Resolution 2025-12. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously. The County Attorney will send the signed Resolution to the Valley Fire District.

COMMISSIONS INSPECTION OF BONDS PER MCA SECTION 7-4-2213; Commissioner McLure moved acknowledge inspection and acceptable of the sole bond which was from April 9, 2024 for TCS Northwest contractor's elevator and bathroom

project. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT SECONDARY MANUFACTURERS: Blaine Bradshaw updated the Commission on this portion of the meeting. There is another class action settlement with secondary opioid manufacturers that the Montana AG's Office effectuated regarding the opioid epidemic. Funding will likely go to the regional opioid abatement board, and local public health may apply for grant opportunities. Blaine Bradshaw was previously appointed as the representative on the regional opioid abatement board. Commissioner McLure moved to review, accept, and sign the opioid settlement with secondary manufacturers. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously. The Commission will e-sign the settlement agreement.

FY2026 COUNTY MOTOR VEHICLE GRAVEYARD GRANT FOR GRANITE COUNTY JUNK VEHICLE GRAVEYARD IN CERTAIN PORTIONS NEAR INTERSECTING FRONTAGE ROAD; Commissioner McLure moved to accept the FY2026 grant for Junk Vehicle. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

SPEED STUDY REQUEST AND SPEED REDUCTION REQUEST OF MT DOT RE: MONTANA HIGHWAY 271 ON A CERTAIN PORTION ENAR INTERSECTION FRONTAGE ROAD; Commissioner Kulaski moved to send a letter to MTDOT on Highway 271. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

FORM FS-2700-10A, FACILITY OWNER AND OCCUPANT INVENTORY OF RUMSEY MOUNTAIN COMMUNICATION USES; Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the Rumsey MTN communication uses' inventory. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

GRANITE COUNTY AIRPORTS, RIDDICK FIELD, AND DRUMMOND; Granite County Airport Manager Donovan Jones met with the Commission to discuss airport matters. Commissioner Adler noted that some people are interested in joining the County's airport board, but Donovan Jones and the County Attorney clarified there is only one airport board (all board positions filled right now) for the County. Donovan Jones is the Chairman of the Board and manager of the County-owned airports in Drummond and Philipsburg. Communication issues arose in Drummond when the airport was closed for firefighting without proper notice. Blaine Bradshaw explained that Philipsburg's Riddick Field has a land use agreement in place, while Drummond does not, and Donovan Jones is working to update Drummond's agreement to match Riddick's. Blaine Bradshaw agreed with Donovan Jones that land use agreement is needed for the Drummond Airport. The Commission generally discussed whether Drummond should have its own board, but concerns were raised about finding enough people to serve. Sheriff's Office Dispatch also lacked clear contact information for Donovan Jones regarding the Drummond Airport so better communication protocols are needed. Donovan Jones said meetings are posted monthly on the website for anyone interested in attending. The group also talked about

emergency use, with Commissioner Adler asking about Life Flight access. Donovan Jones will contact the Drummond Volunteer Ambulance and resolve any concerns to allow for Life Flight access to the Drummond Airport during the current emergency public closure of the airport that was done to aid firefighting efforts.

ZOOM PARTICIPATION POLICY AND CONFERENCE PHONE LINE REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT; The Granite County Commission discussed the Zoom and Conference Line Policy. Blaine Bradshaw suggested posting the policy on the County website and in the Commissioners' Office. Commissioner McLure emphasized the need for consistency across all platforms. The policy includes a 30-day window to fix cameras or other technical issues as an exception to the cameras on rule for giving public comment via Zoom. Commissioner McLure noted this is about proper notice of the policy, as the public had difficulty finding details regarding the public participating during meetings via on Zoom, but also calling the conference line. Blaine Bradshaw also addressed legal concerns about targeting and disruption, comparing it to how state law addresses synthetic drugs. State criminal law targets the conduct, and is not arbitrary as there is a reasonable basis for the law, just like the Zoom policy here. The goal is to ensure efficient public comment. Such as, folks calling in on Zoom do not have access to the “raise hand” function so being on Zoom (with video), then the raise and lower hand functions are operable. Commissioner Kulaski moved to adopt the policy with revisions (new headline, 30-day fix limit, posting online, and a signature line); Commissioner McLure seconded. With no public comment, the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner McLure stressed the policy is not meant to single out anyone or pick on anyone in particular. The written policy will be on the Commission’s agenda the following week for final review and signing.

Commissioner Adler adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.