

May 6, 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 attended 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, George Durkin, Trish Schreiber, and Greg Bahr.

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

BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner McLure moved to accept the board minutes for April 29, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. No public comment was received, and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Electronic Mail was received from Kayla Sanders regarding the Local Innovation NTI Application for the Grant and it was declined.

Electronic Mail was received from MACo regarding the Property Appraisals and Historical Reproduction Cost.

Electronic Mail was received from TCS Northwest with a change order for a Sump Pump, and the proposed change order will be on the following week's Commission agenda.

Mail was received from the International Union of Operating Engineers with letters for Road Departments and Solid Waste asking that the Agreement be opened up for negotiating. Crews going to 5 days for winter work were discussed. Negotiating with the union will be on the future agenda. The Commissioner's Assistant will reach out to set up a meeting.

Electronic Mail was received from Cameron Rasor, District Ranger for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, saying that the Forest Service has the week of June 2nd scheduled to apply gravel and grade Lakeshore Drive.

Electronic Mail was received from Deb Robinson with the new contract for the Immunization Grant and a signature from the chairperson. Commissioner Kulaski moved to sign the new contract for Public Health. Commissioner McLure seconded. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

Electronic Mail was received from Gary Snyder regarding the resignation of Commissioners Gail Leeper and Robin Wight and the remaining duties and appointment suggestions.

Mail was received from the Granite County Justice Court with the April Civil Fees for \$5,694.16.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano that she can't see two of the three commissioners and is wondering why she couldn't. Commissioner McLure is on her own camera on her laptop, and Commissioner Kulaski and Commissioner Adler are on the Owl, which is the equipment we are having problems with.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt provided updated on road maintenance and solid waste. Blading and cold patching are underway where conditions allow. A complete road maintenance cycle is planned. The Forest Service's one-time, annual blading and gravel to Lakeshore Drive (a Forest Service Road) this coming June was discussed. Equipment pre-operation checklist books will be distributed among shops. Budget constraints are affecting oil purchase for Durapatching, but supplies should still be ordered. Oil prices are stable for now but could change. The Kenworth snowplow truck has been returned, and a backhoe was delivered, with another being returned. An outstanding \$1,350 payment from Blackfoot was mentioned, related to Maxville Road work from last year. Paul Alt noted he won't attend next week's meeting.

SOLID WASTE: Solid Waste is good. An extra dumpster at the Philipsburg dump site was discussed as a need. The burn pile is too small, and it was discussed how to make that better by possibly moving it somewhere else. The junk cars were discussed, and Commissioner Adler said you have to have so many cars there to get them taken out. Tighten up the room and take a loader to stack them up, make it work, and look better.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; Peter Brown of FWP and Paul Tallon, Flint Creek Hydro LLC's Operator, joined the commissioners for this portion of the meeting. According to the USGS lake level gauge and the dam tender's report for the week, the lake level was reported at 6428.99 feet, 6.12 inches below full pool. Paul Tallon said currently releases are at 30 CFS according to his calculations and coming in at 31.2 CFS per the USGS graph online. A discussion of the fresh snow was had. Commissioner Adler said the county gets dictated to on what we can do. Peter Brown said he agreed to keep it at that. Commissioner Kulaski moved to proceed to keep outflows consistent with the inflows, to stay at 30 CFS to match inflows for a week, subject to agency approval, which aligns with the estimated inflows and the current FERC Order in place. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously. Blaine Bradshaw said FWP doesn't put financial resources into dam, but the County Commission feels like they are micromanaging the reservoir and outflows, and that he also ran the issues by Matthew Williams, attorney with Flint Creek Hydro LLC, who suggested a letter to the Governor's office. Commissioner McLure moved to send the letter to Governor Gianforte. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. Peter Brown suggested sending a copy of the letter to Alex and Brad. The motion passed unanimously.

CULBREATH VS. GRANITE COUNTY; FEDERAL COURT CASE; Blaine Bradshaw gave a little background and said in 2022, Mr. Culbreath committed suicide in the Granite County Jail. Dylan Gallagher with MACo defense is the defense attorney representing Granite County. Before that time, the jail did put out bids for padded cells. Blaine Bradshaw doesn't think the County was negligent in this matter, but that will be determined through the case. Culbreath's Estate filed the suit in federal district court in Missoula, but he unsure of the personal representative of the estate, possibly his ex-wife or a child.

PHILIPSBURG CEMETERY BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION; JIM WALDBILLIG; Commissioner McLure moved to accept Jim Waldbillig's application to be on the Philipsburg Cemetery District Board to serve a volunteer with his term expiring in October 2028. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

GRANITE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER AND DRUMMOND CLINIC LEASE PROPOSAL BID OPENINGS: The proposed bid dates from Brian Huso, CEO of the Granite County Medical Center operated by the Granite County Hospital District, were discussed, as they are from 2020. Commissioner Adler asked Blaine Bradshaw if anything had changed on the GCMC proposal from the previous leases for the Hospital (GCMC) Building in Philipsburg and Drummond Clinic. Blaine Bradshaw said no as he had looked over the proposal, and he also that he had already updated the dates in the draft Leases to be executed as of July 1, 2026 for a term of 5-years. Commissioner McLure moved to accept the Granite County Hospital District's proposal for both the Hospital (GCMC) and Drummond Clinic buildings. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously. The draft leases will be on the Commission's agenda the following week.

RIDDICK FIELD AIRPORT SIGN REPLACEMENT: Donovan Jones, Riddick Field Chair, informed the Commissioners that a sign fell over in the last storm. He got a call from Scott McDonald, and he can make a nicer, durable metal sign. Donovan said this would come out of the repair budget. They have a repair line item and approved repairs. Commissioner Kulaski moved to approve the sign and use the repair line item. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

RIDDICK FIELD AIRPORT BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION AND NOTICE FOR VACANT SEAT; Dave Sanson is resigning from the Airport Board as he hasn't been able to attend Granite County Airport Board meetings regularly. Commissioner McLure moved to accept Dave Sanson's resignation from the airport board. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously. Donovan wants to put notice at the town and on the county website.

GRANITE COUNTY STUDY COMMISSIONER BOARD MEMBERS (2) RESIGNATIONS; Robin Wight and Gail Leeper sent in resignation letters from the Study Commission Local Government Review Board. The Commissioners agreed they did a great job while they were on there. Robin Wight sent a letter she didn't want to turn in a claim. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the resignation letters from the Study Commissioner

Board. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously. Gary Snyder's correspondence letter was discussed, but will be tabled to address his letter and the future of the study commission on the following Tuesday.

REVIEW OF COUNTY'S HALL HOUSE RENTAL APPLICATIONS AND AWARDDING OF LEASE: The commissioners reviewed 2 applications for the County Rental house in Hall by the county shops. Commissioner Adler has a text from Bill Slaughter recommending Shawna as the renter. Commissioner Kulaski moved to approve applicant Shawna Reisner and, with conditions, a customary lease with no business in the residence. They discussed having to have the deposit, first month's rent, and sign the lease. Commissioner McLure seconded. Blaine Bradshaw said the lease requires rental insurance.

MT DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING GRANITE COUNTY TREASURER: County Treasurer Ashley Todd joined the Commissioners for this portion. The previously proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was declined to sign to see what negotiations looked like. This MOU adds the section they forgot in the initial one, stating that, provided House Bill 2 is signed by the Governor (already passed Montana Senate and House), MVD will reimburse each county .10 cents per transaction completed. Ashley Todd thinks they aren't going to get anywhere else, but they are trying to get lobbyists to do some work on it for the next session. Discussion was had that the State is just paying for the computer system itself and a special scanner, but does not include computers, printers, etc. Those are county-owned and ran by DIS. Ashley Todd said ten cents is ten cents. For our county, a lot of LLCs are completed through MVD Express, which can process them through other counties, and it is not clear if they will get paid for those. Granite County Treasurer's Office does 40,000 transactions per year and thinks they should get paid for said transactions. Commissioner McLure moved to sign the MOU with MT Department of Revenue. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW BIDS RECEIVED FOR MAIN STREET BRIDGE REPAIR WITH GREATWEST ENGINEERING; Jeremiah Theys joined the Commissioners for this portion of the meeting. Commissioner Adler asked about the bid totals from the bidders or from the bidders and GreatWest's fees. Jeremiah said yes, it would be for their services plus the contractor's price. Jeremiah said that since the price was under 80k, they didn't have to do a public notice. GreatWest Engineering received 2 bids: one from R Rhodes Construction \$21,234.56, completion date of Oct. 15 of this year. They will be in the area doing some other work. Battle Ridge Builders LLC \$for 28,500. Proposed completion date of September. Jeremiah said he doesn't know if the month makes a difference. Commissioner Kulaski said that's a big gap in material pricing. Profit is on mobilization, said Jeremiah. Jeremiah has worked with both companies before and both are well qualified. The discussion was about the contractors in the area, whose prices probably reflect that. Commissioner McLure moved to accept the R Rhodes Construction, Inc. Bid for \$21,234.56. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

AWARD OF BID AND NOTICE TO THE SELECTED CONTRACTOR FOR MAIN STREET BRIDGE CURB REPAIR; Commissioner Kulaski moved to award the Main Street Bridge Project bid to R Rhodes Construction, Inc. for \$21,234.56. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW COUNTY BRIDGES AND DISCUSS FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS WITH GREATWEST ENGINEERING; Jeremiah Theys had 2 handouts; Bridge Evaluation done in 2018, and the second is an entity that came through and did a priority need list that was wrapped up in 2024. Number 1 bridge still is Braach Bridge with the lowest SR (sufficiency rating) of 41.7/100. Preliminary was done on the Bridge. The landowner hired someone to do improvements and plans were reviewed for some decking but the bridge isn't great overall. The latest SR is down to 31.4 but the bridge serves just 1 landowner. #2 is Stoney Creek on upper Rock Creek Road. SR is 66.3. Discussion was had about it being just the decking that needs attention. The superstructure is also in fair shape. Overall, county bridges are in good condition. Bridges have been replaced and knocking out the list bit by bit. Gold Coin Bridge was discussed as being a priority, and it's 9th on the list. Ryan from GreatWest inspected it last week, and the superstructure rating was good and the substructure is fair. They will re-run the load ratings and see if that affects posting load limits. Commissioner Adler asked if we could post some weight limits there. Jeremiah said if someone was over your posted limits but under legal highway limits, their insurance wouldn't cover. If a vehicle is overloaded and does damage to the bridge, they have to cover that cost. Jeremiah's recommendation on this is to do a bridge evaluation. MDT had the last SB536 funds for bridge repair. New bill 924 has some money set aside for bridge repair. The Drummond Main Street bridge deck is rated poor and will eventually need done as it was built in 1934. To extend the life they just paved over it in recent years, and capped it and sealed it but the deck itself is in bad condition, old structure underneath. MSEPH funds have been used before, with a 1 - 1 match discussed for the match planning grants. Commissioner Kulaski asked about bridge sufficiency ratings (S.R.). Jeremiah Theys explained you can have a low S.R. where alignment to the road, scales, and load criteria play into the S.R. ratings. Any bridge with a 50-75 S.R. rating is considered needing maintenance. Once a bridge is rated under 50, this means it is time for replacement.

RESOLUTION 2025-8; A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION ABANDONING A PORTION OF THE NORTH FORK OF THE LOWER WILLOW CREEK ROAD; A COUNTY ROAD; FIRST READING AND DISCUSSION; Blaine Bradshaw explained that the Resolution should protect the Lower Valley Irrigation District members as the abandonment by the County is conditional upon the existing easement (or like easement) being in effect such as the one from David Peitz to the Irrigation District recorded with the Granite County Clerk & Recorder's Office on April 29, 2025 as Document No. 80988, Roll 82, Page 283. Referenced roll and page number in the resolution. Second reading will be on next week's agenda.

LUNCH BREAK; The Commissioners took a lunch break for an hour.

PROSPECTIVE COUNTY COURTHOUSE CUSTODIAN INTERVIEWS: Commissioner Kulaski moved to conditionally hire Donald Smith as a Full Time Custodian, Grade 8, step 5, on a successful background check. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment, and the motion passed unanimously.

RECESS; The Commissioners took a short recess before the next agenda item.

PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COVERAGE REVIEW WITH MACO AND MARSHMCLENNAN AGENCY; Rody Holman, County's insurance agent with Marsh McLennan and Hope Barker of MACo met with the Commissioners for Property and Casualty Insurance coverage (MACo) as well as Worker's Compensation coverage (State Fund). Hope discussed the Benefits of pooling, excess and Reinsurance Market Analysis, 25-26 contribution and PY comparison, Property and Liability Coverage, Claims review, risk management services, contact information, and proper acknowledgement form. Discussion of having proof of liability insurance for anyone coming to work in the buildings and on county equipment. Cybersecurity insurance was mentioned to look at when it comes down the pipe. Rody Holman updated the commissioners on the comparison of workers' compensation premiums. Commissioner McLure moved to renew the property and casualty insurance with MACo for the upcoming fiscal year, July 2025 through June 2026. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McLure moved to renew the workers' compensation plan with State Fund for the upcoming fiscal year. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Adler adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.