

November 12, 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 Hinkle attending, and Commissioner Adler. Also attending were Commission Assistant Maranda 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 Treasurer Ashley Todd, Road and Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt, TCS Northwest Project Superintendent Ryon Covington, Brooke Covington, President Slate Architect Scott Cromwell, Tobacco Prevention Education Amanda Bohrer, members of the general public Elena Gagliano.

BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for October 29, 2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. No public comments were received, and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Mail was received from Flint Creek Valley Bank for Granite Justice Court Disbursement.

Electronic mail was received from FERC acknowledging the county's letter transmitting the 2024 Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Corrective Action Plan and Schedule for the Flint Creek Hydroelectric Project. They accepted the county to submit a revised EAP by March 31, 2025.

Electronic mail was received from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Airports, which will hold the final National Workshop of 2024 on Thursday, November 21st, 2024. The workshop's intent is to partner with airport sponsors, consultants, and other stakeholders to ensure they are providing the best possible service to airports.

Electronic mail(s) were received from the Montana DEQ for the Purpose of Public Notice to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice: Libby Exploration Project—Libby Creek Adit.

A letter was received from Hans Bohnrsen, Montana Registered Land Surveyor of Willowrock, Inc., requesting an increase in the county review fee paid for surveys. He proposed a new fee of \$100 per survey and \$35 per lot. The Commission tabled the matter as an agenda item next week.

The county received a letter from the Forest Service responding to the County Commissioner's letter sent on October 24th, 2024, regarding road maintenance on Lakeshore Drive. It states they graded the entire length of Lakeshore Drive in late June and that they also graded 2.7 miles of the road on October 17th but had to stop because of a significant snowstorm. They weren't able to grade 0.45 miles in length. The Forest Service's Road Staff

has been placed into non-pay status and will not return until next spring. They encourage the county to fulfill the agreement with the public and residents that utilize this road by removing snow this winter.

Public comment:

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano regarding Lakeshore Drive, who quoted the last sentence of the letter and asked if it would be addressed. Commissioner McLure reassured that the County would be snowplowing the roads this winter. Commissioner Hinkle said the county has never said they weren't plowing the road. Commissioner McLure followed up with fulfilling the obligation to plow the road. Commissioner Hinkle mentioned how Lakeshore Drive needed to be bladed so the plow didn't bounce on the washboard parts of the road, which was all the Forest Service asked to do. Elena Gagliano asks that the letter is thanking the county for agreeing to plow the road and that it doesn't sound like he is acknowledging Granite County has fulfilled the agreement, but encouraging the County to fulfill the agreement.

Commissioner Adler received a call from Lisa Villa that Forest Service didn't finish up the other piece of road. Commissioner Adler stated homeowners need to figure out their part, we will work with Forest Service to fulfill our parts. Commissioner Adler said the County will plow this year. Commissioners would like to find out if anyone did in fact go back up and finish the section of road not bladed when they get a road report from the Road and Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt stated that the road crew is blading roads and mowing. Pothole patching will start next week. Commissioner Hinkle asked about the big culvert project, and Paul said they got that done and completed with another one to do down Rock Creek. Paul Alt updated the Commissioners that Blackfoot has done all they can do on Maxville Road. Blading needs to be done but it won't happen until next year. Regarding asphalt issues and agreement, he'd like to see Blackfoot buy us 4 totes of oil worth 6k for the Maxville Road. Paul states that the county can't get any more oil ourselves; the budget isn't going to stand for it. Verbal agreement ok with Commissioners to get enough totes to cover the job. Commissioner Hinkle agreed that Paul thought it was okay. They aren't getting the work done and there are numerous asphalt issues on the Maxville road. The agreement would be Blackfoot to pay for the material, county does the work. Commissioner Hinkle and Commissioner Adler agreed with the road crew to get the work done. Paul will try to get 6 totes of oil.

There was an incident on Saturday (November 2, 2024) where a motor vehicle wrecked on the South Main Street Bridge over the Clark Fork River causing damage to the concrete guard rail from an accident. The driver of vehicle has liability insurance. There is a police report and photos of the damage to the bridge. The County will get Great West to come look at it and get it fixed. Paul Alt had a photo of the incident. Problems will arise if nothing is done about it and someone goes through it. Question of who did other work on if it was the

state or who? Even though it's our bridge but they do the work on it. It was determined the work would be done by the County (contracted out) and billed out to the driver's insurance.

Commissioner Hinkle brought up the letter from Forest Service and grading. There're multiple rumors that the county isn't going to do the snowplowing this winter on Lakeshore Drive. No equipment up there, but will plow to smooth it out once it snows. Commissioner Hinkle states it could use a blade. Question on when the county can get up there, Paul Alt stated they will go up tomorrow afternoon. In regards to the East Fork Road barricades that are sitting below the hill that they could put a few of them a few different places, if someone wrecks, it's a safety issue, stated County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw.

Send Blackfoot a bill for work done on East Fork Road work, gravel bill, and oil for DuraPatcher. To invoice all at once with all items. Road Department will know by the end of this month what is to be invoiced.

Solid waste update; got heaters put in both of the buildings.

Hall house update we need to call plumber. Commissioner Hinkle suggested to get someone who knows how to do it and will do it, certified or not, since there's no building codes or inspectors. Commissioner McLure would like to see a certified plumber. Blaine Bradshaw to call Clyde Christman to do plumbing work. Commissioner Adler would like to see the work done this winter. Commissioner McLure stated and said they agreed on getting a certified plumber, due to old lead pipes. Commissioner Adler suggests to just fix what needs done. Commissioner McLure would like to see it all get redone if we have a plumber in there.

Get estimates from multiple contractors to see who could complete the work. This will be an agenda item next week. Commissioners don't want to rent it out until the work is complete. That is why prior renters moved out and need the work done before renting out again.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6427.99 feet; 18.12 inches below full pool with 6 CFS being released currently, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner Hinkle moved to continue releasing 6 CFS which matches the estimated inflows; in alignment with the current FERC Order in place. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Reappointments: DAVID LEE AIRPORT BOARD; SARAH GRAHAM PHILIPSBURG TV BOARD; TOM RUE TAX APPEAL BOARD; TOM RUE PLANNING BOARD. The Commission reviewed the requests for reappointment to county boards. Commissioner Adler moved to reappoint David Lee Airport Board, Sarah Graham Philipsburg TV Board; Tom Rue Tax Appeal Board; Tom Rue Planning Board. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There were public comments received from Elena Gagliano stating there is info online for the board of adjustments description and thanking County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw for bringing up her election votes. Commissioners Assistant will follow up and send them a letter for reappointment.

monthly claims Monthly claims; The Commission reviewed monthly claims. The Commission discussed a claim for a new laptop for Attorney's Office they are keeping old one as a spare. County Attorney's office is getting some filing cabinets as well.

Commissioner Adler asked about Chemnet and what it is – it's the background and drug and alcohol testing we use. A battery is needed for the 4-wheeler to plow snow at the Courthouse. Janeen will also take it to get the oil changed. Snow rodeo (from LTAP) was questioned on a claim; and it was discovered to be training for a road crew member. Commissioner Adler remembers talking about a 2-day training and Walden was the only one that wanted to go. Commissioner Adler moved to approve the monthly claims for the month of October 2024. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE WORKING GROUP MEETING UPDATE;

Commissioner Hinkle attended the meeting on behalf of Granite County. He brought up concern with the forest service with the Maxville project since they only meet once a month. He stated they should have more than 30 days. He wanted more information and they didn't email any over to Commissioner Hinkle. Commissioner Hinkle questioned whether the working group was effective or not since they appear to be just rubber stamping the Forest Service's decisions. Commissioner Hinkle says the Forest Service is going to burn many acres in Granite County which he disagrees with and this is also contrary to getting grants to thin private land at Georgetown Lake. These grants are federal dollars administered by the DNRC. The County Commission also questioned these grants in which the Beaverhead-Deerlodge working group is receiving for the thinning of trees on private ground. Commissioner Hinkle doesn't think it's up to the government to thin trees on private land, should be up to the landowner. He noted that he doesn't think the grants will be there in the future. People build in the woods for a reason, if they go and cut all these trees down, where is their privacy, Commissioner Hinkle noted. He further stated that using tax dollars to do that is questionable. The Commission did believe that having a representative attend the working meeting would be helpful. The working group is for Powell, Beaverhead, Anaconda-Deer Lodge, and Madison counties. Granite County should be looking into it more, if they are helping or not. Commissioner Hinkle thinks it might be too much of a commitment for him to attend next year.

In regards to the working group the Commission again discussed their involvement. Commissioner Adler agrees with the Commission having a representative attend the working group. Blaine Bradshaw agrees with Commissioner Adler to have a rep from the county. Tabled to be an agenda item for after the first of the new year.

Commission wants to have Cameron Razor (local ranger with Pintler District) to come to a meeting to explain the timber sale proposed in the Maxville area. The loggers will need to use some of the county roads to get timber out. Commissioner Adler states it's just wishy washy on what is going on. Commissioner Hinkle stated they had no numbers as far as what they are exactly doing.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano that she was a member of the FMAC group and used to participate in the Beaverhead Deerlodge working group and report back to FMAC and FMAC gave the update to the commission. FMAC group was meeting and doing this already but has not been meeting lately. Elena Gagliano said it similar to Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority where the County once had a director and a representative, herself, who kept up to date in what was going on with the group. Maxville project is pretty much a done deal, she states and quotes information available online. There was some general discussion on FMAC and how Covid inhibited meetings. Commissioner Hinkle thought a Resolution disbanding FMAC was adopted per his recollection but this needs looked into further. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano said they met during Covid and had remote viewing. There was no resolution and was not disbanded. Saves the county money by attending remotely and that it's a good thing. The issue regarding continuing with or dissolving FMAC will be a future agenda item.

Commissioner Hinkle asked if the Forest Service bid out timber sales and how they award them. Competitive bidding used to be the highest bidder getting it. They should do post-and-pole instead of burning it all.

OAC MEETING COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR & ADA PROJECT;

The Commission was joined by TCS Northwest Superintendent Ryon Covington and Assistant Project Manager Brooke Covington; Slate Architect President Scott Cromwell joined via Zoom. Ryon Covington updated the Commissioners about the elevator and courthouse projects. He stated that the elevator is to get shipped out at the end of December. The Judges and men's bathrooms are temporarily done. Partitions are in, drywall, and final painting on that, next clean up the women's bathroom upstairs and demo that side. Next, they will start on the elevator pit, opening that up and to get plumbers in and start working their way down the shaft. Drywall guy to come in and do another layer on elevator shaft. The elevator Doors are supposed to ship out January 6th and will have to schedule around the Otis Elevator. Don't know how long it will take to install but hopefully they will know more later today. Shaft, framing, install doors, 3rd floor all tidied up. They had to end up scraping some old paint and texture off the walls. Moisture hits the wall and the paint is coming off. Paint is bubbling off in the jury room ceiling as well. A very strong odor of nicotine comes out.

At some point, the jury room ceiling will need redone. Brooke Covington suggested leaving the jury room ceiling as is and fixing it when the roof is done. When they fix the roof, it could make it worse. It was suggested to have it done and bill it out later with the roof project when the work can be completed in the spring. Noticeably where leaks have been in ceiling of third floor and it turns the plaster to powder. TCS suggested to scrape now to get demo part done and remove mess out of there and at least throw primer on it for looks. Commissioner Adler is in favor of the cover up. The roof project is slated for spring 2025. The old out of date spray texture made huge chunks and it's hard to replicate with new age way of texturing. Commissioner McLure states it's a 114-year-old building. Commissioner Adler moved to allow contractors to scrape and prime the jury room ceiling (part of change order) with the more finished work to be bid out with the roof project, Commissioner McLure Seconded; no public comment was received. The motion passed and was carried unanimously. Contractors have been hauling dirt out when the courthouse is closed, visqueen is all around so no one

slips and falls. Mechanical room and dirt floor project, women's restroom start next week and elevator beams. Plumbers are scheduled the first or second week in December. Scott Cromwell asked that the floor in the women's bathroom be salvaged for future patching as the majority of that is in good shape. They will salvage what they can and find a spot to store it.

Blaine Bradshaw mentioned that in the men's bathroom, the motion detector sink turns on when folks walk by the urinal on the other side. They think it could be caused by shadows or the sun's reflection on the sensors, and will fix the problem.

Brooke Covington asked how to proceed with the Gross Tax Receipts. She was advised to go through Sarah Graham to get that issue worked out.

Ryon Covington requested the newest copy of the inspection on the roof done by Dave Kauffman, and Blaine Bradshaw will forward that to him. Commissioner Adler motioned to pay application number 8. Commissioner Hinkle Seconded. No public comment was received. The motion carried and passed unanimously.

Change Orders updates; #6 Fire Alarm system changes rewired; #7 2x4 wall reinforcements to double the strength with the load; #8 extra access panel in mechanical room; #9 Window Infills on 3rd Floor. These requested change orders will be on the Commission's agenda the following week for decision. Ryon Covington brought in a carpet sample for the 3rd floor hallway, etc. which was approved. Scott Cromwell updated the Commissioners and said a review of roof drawings is set for the roof for everyone to look at soon. He would like to do a walk through with the Commission at the next OAC Meeting on December 10th, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., and this was agreed upon.

FY 2025 EXTENSION SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION OFFICE;

Commissioner Adler made a move to approve and sign the 2025 agreement with the Montana State University Extension Office. Commissioner Hinkle seconded. No Public comment was made. The motion carried and passed unanimously.

Public comment was received from Tobacco Prevention Specialist Amanda Bohrer. Leaving some surveys for the county. She has 46 entered into computer system and 12 paper copies from within in the county. 71.8% approval rating for a 30-foot distance ruling, people don't like entering and exiting a building through a cloud of smoke. Amanda Bohrer asked how do we like the informational tower in the foyer. Commissioners agreed they like it. The Public health department has some new updated drug and alcohol informational towers and says they are educational. Commissioner Adler stated he didn't think e-cigarettes smelled but there are chemicals in them Amanda stated, so people wouldn't want to breath that in. Vaping bothers some people and is included in the smoking clause.

DUI Task Force working with 6-12th grades to get a speaker on vaping for schools in smaller groups instead of assemblies so kids can engage and interact. Trying to coordinate a time they can get one here and Anaconda. 3 Drummond and 5 Phillipsburg teachers to check out Red Ribbon Week kits.

HEADWATERS RC&D REGION C-PACE PROGRAM;

Electronic mail received from Kelly Sullivan of Headwaters introducing Carolyn Jones, the State Administrator for the C-PACE program; a financing tool that provides low-cost long-term financing for energy efficient upgrades and renewable energy investments in commercial properties. The correspondence noted that local governments do need to opt into the program by adopting a C-Pace district. Commissioner Adler stated that it goes through property taxes.

A meeting before the Commission so the Commissioners can get more information on this is scheduled for Tuesday, November, 26th, 2024 from 12-1 pm via Google Meets. Commissioner McLure noted it's for commercial businesses. If you borrowed this money your payment would be paid through a tax assessment. The letter is more informational and the commissioners will learn more at the meeting on the 26th.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if the Headwaters meeting is public and where the information is obtained. Commissioner Adler mentioned it's their meeting, not ours. It was suggested to put an informational link on the county website. Elena Gagliano made a public comment stating that the C-Pace program is on the agenda, but the Headwaters meeting on the 21st wasn't. Commissioner McLure explained that they are not associated with one another, one is an agenda item and the other was not.

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER; The Commission went into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

The Session Adjourned at 12:18 p.m.