

COUNTY OF GRANITE
Study Commission
December 23, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Granite County Courthouse, 220 North Sansome Street, Philipsburg, MT 59858
Meeting 12/23/2024; not on Zoom.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Roll Call was taken, and the following all responded present: Gail Leeper, Robin Wight, and Gary Snyder.

The following members were absent: None

Others present: Blanche McLure, Granite County Ex Officio.

Amend Agenda

Chair Gail Leeper moved to amend the December 23, 2024 Agenda, adding: Pledge of Allegiance, Public Comment and Point of Contact. Robin Wight made motion, to approve amending the December 23, 2024 Granite County Study Commission Agenda adding items: Pledge of Allegiance, Public Comment and Point of Contact. Gary Snyder seconded the motion; all yeas, none opposed.

Minutes

- A. Tuesday, November 26, 2024 First Study Commissioner Meeting, Conducted by Granite County governing body being studied; a copy of said Granite County Commissioners' meeting minutes, are attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- B. Tuesday, December 3, 2024 Granite County Commissioners' approval of Local Government Review Study Commissioner First Meeting minutes, a copy of said Granite County Commissioners' meeting minutes are attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Items of Business

A. Regular Items

- 1) **Budget** - Total Funds Levied \$12,000.00
Presentation: None
Public Comment: None

Discussion: Gail Leeper led the Study Commission Budget discussion. Budget items discussed were: election costs, training, travel, materials and supplies, advertising, and consultation/facilitation; equaling budget amount of \$10,453.00. A copy of said Study Commission Budget, is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

Gary Snyder will reach out to his contact, with the Philipsburg Mail; inquiring if Legal Notices for the Local Government Review, could be published at a reduced rate in the local paper.

The remainder of levied funds would be added to existing budget, utilizing a budget amendment; should a need arise to utilize the balance of the levied funds. Funds not utilized during the first year of the review process will roll-over into the second year of the Local Government Review. All remaining funds, after completion of the Local Government Review; will be added to the General Fund of the Granite County Coffers.

All aspects of accounting will be overseen, and ran through Granite County Coffers.

Motion: Gary Snyder moved to approve the Local Government Review Study Commission Budget; Gail Leeper seconded the motion. All yeas, none apposed.

2) Timetable:

Presentation: Gail Leeper presented the Local Government Review Study Commission Timetable Template, as provided by MSU Extension.

Public Comment: None

Discussion: Gail Leeper led the required Study Commission Timetable discussion; at which, each action item of the timetable was discussed amongst the study commissioners, adding the dates to the timetable template; a copy of said timetable is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

The timetable for deliberations and actions of the Granite County Study Commission is established as required by 7-3-186 MCA for the purpose of assuring full public information concerning the Local Government Review process in Granite County and enabling informed citizen participation. This time table will be published in the Philipsburg Mail 90 days of organizational meeting.

Discussion led to, Government Meetings are open meetings and subject to open meeting law; noting only two instances for closed session, which are litigation and/or personnel matters. Further discussing, the Ex Officio for Granite County Local Government Review Study Commission is Blanche McLure; one of Granite County Commissioners.

Motion: Timetable motion and approval to be conducted at the January Meeting.

3) Would it be beneficial to co-op with the Town of Philipsburg?

Presentation: None

Public Comment: None

Discussion: Gail Leeper presented the question, if it would be beneficial for Granite County and the Town of Philipsburg to work in co-operation of the Local Government Review Process, which is an option available for city/town/counties being reviewed simultaneously.

An invitation will be extended to Philipsburg's Mayor, Dan Reddish, to attend the January Granite County Study Commissioners' meeting.

Motion: None

- 4) **Bylaws:** Gary Snyder moved to table the Bylaws discussion and creation; placing on the January Agenda. Robin Wight seconded the motion. All yeas, none apposed.

C. Old Business

1) **Re-Elect Study Commissioner Permanent Officers**

discussion was had as to proper procedure protocol of motions and discussions.

Gail Leeper made a motion to Re-Elect the Study Commissioner Permanent Officers as recorded in Granite County Local Government Review First Meeting of the Study Commissioners, held November 26, 2024.

Robin Wight moved to nominate Gail Leeper as chair of the Study Commission; after a brief silence Gail Leeper seconded the motion.

Vote Results for the Record:	Gail Leeper	Yea
	Robin Wight	Yea
	Gary Snyder	Abstain

Gail Leeper moved to nominate Robin Wight as secretary of the Study Commission; Gary Snyder seconded the motion; all yeas, none apposed.

Gary Snyder inquired, as to whom would be treasurer of the Study Commission; at which time discussion was held, to clarify that Granite County will oversee the funds of the Study Commission.

2) **Training In-Person Report**

Gail Leeper and Robin Wight both attended in-person training on December 10, 2024; Whitefish.

Gary Snyder attended in-person training on December 12, 2024; Bozeman.

3) **Online Training Report**

All study commissioners are registered in Montana State University Extension's Local Government Review 6-week online course. Gail Leeper and Robin Wight have begun the course. Gary Snyder is working with MSU Extension to secure online entry to the course.

The Study Commissioners were in agreement, of the importance of conducting this Review Process within the legal bounds of the United States Constitution, Montana Constitution, and Montana Code Annotated; as required by Montana State Law.

D. New Business

1) **Point of Contact**

Presentation: Gail Leeper presented there should be a designated point of contact through Granite County; in which, the public can direct inquiries or questions. Per the in-person training, the first point of contact should be within the government body being studied.

Public Comment: None

Discussion: Gail Leeper led the study commission with thoughts and comments, as to who the proper point of contact should be within Granite County. Discussion led to; either the Commissioners assistant, or Sarah Graham within the Clerk and Records Office.

Further discussion led to the creation of a webpage, within the Granite County Website and individual email addresses that can be blind copied as to prevent a quorum for discussing Study Commission topics.

The Study Commissioner agreed there should be a point of contact within Granite County; to welcome public participation with the Review Process, in a way that would protect open meeting laws; yet, be able to inform the study commissioners of the public's interest and concerns to the process.

Approved written minutes will be placed on the County website. Gary Snyder moved to place approved written minutes on Granite County website; Robin Wight seconded the motion. All yeas, none apposed.

Public Comment

None

Member Communications/Proposals for next Agenda

1. Motion on Timeline.
2. Creation, Discussion and Motion of Study Commission Bylaws.

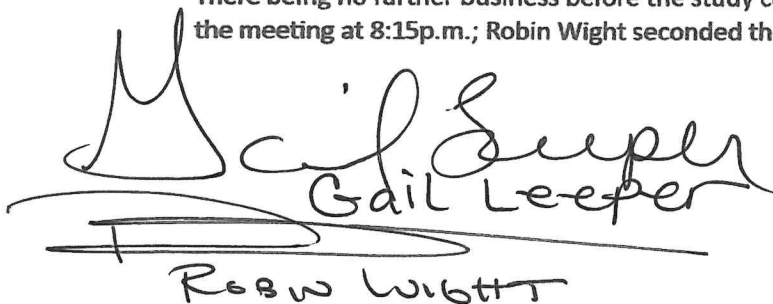
Agenda Items requested to be to Granite County Point of Contact by January 10th in preparation for the January Meeting Agenda.

Gary Snyder moved that future Local Government Review Study Commissioner Meetings be held on the third Thursday of each month, at 5:00PM, with a cut off time of 8:00PM. Robin Wight seconded the motion. All Yeas, none opposed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM; Granite County Courthouse, 220 N. Sansome, Philipsburg, MT 59858.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the study commission, Gary Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15p.m.; Robin Wight seconded the motion; all yeas, none opposed.



The block contains two handwritten signatures. The first signature is 'Gail Leeper' in cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'G' that loops around the first few letters. Below it is a horizontal line, and underneath that is the signature 'Robin Wight' in a more casual, blocky cursive script.

EXHIBIT A

November 26, 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, 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 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 Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt, County Treasurer Ashely Todd, Gail Leeper, Robin Wight, Gary Snyder, Paul Kulaski, Jake Lee, Ed Simonich, and Elena Gagliano.

BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for November 19th, 2024. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Electronic mail was received from Shane Stack with Missoula County Public Works Department about applying for some Federal Discretionary Grants with groups of Counties. Commissioners Assistant will reach out to Shane Stack and get more details about the Grants and see when he can come talk with the Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public comment was received.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt updated the commissioners that the road department will be patching unless snowed out. Throwing sand and road blading for the weather conditions as well. Barriers will be put in next week after hunting seasons over for less traffic. Culverts to put in still, waiting on locates to get done.

Commissioner Adler asked about a particular road culvert and that it looks like it was clipped. Paul will go take a look at it. Blackfoot bill will send on the 1st of the new year.

Solid Waste matters are getting quieter, Paul stated. Commissioner Adler noted a lot more people are hauling their own garbage now. Bridge repair update; haven't heard back from the firm about coming to look at the bridge damage. Commissioner Assistant to follow up with Great West.

The Commission went into closed session to receive legal advice on an ongoing legal issue.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6428.11 feet; 16.68" inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner Hinkle stated he didn't understand the outflow graph on the report that was created and sent in by Todd Blyth of the MT DNRC. Blaine said he has it outflowing in June. Commissioner Adler questioned if the graph reflects them trying to go to 10 CFS. Blaine Bradshaw stated Todd Blythe's model report is an educated guess. Hinkle wants to stay at 6 CFS for the week.

Public comment was received from Ed Simonich stating he thinks it's acceptable to go to 10 if you want. Referring to the models Todd sent out; one was at 15, but then sent a corrected model at 10 CFS which is what the operating calls for. Ed Simonich commented that they support that they go to 10. The county has permission to let out 6. 3 organizations have to accept any Change in CFS. 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

STUDY COMMISSION FIRST MEETING; Gail Leeper, Robin Wight, and Gary Snyder joined the commission for a separate agenda of establishing the Study Commission Members.

APPOINTMENT OF EX OFFICIO MEMBER; Commissioner McLure volunteered as Ex Officio of the Study Commission for Granite County. Commissioner Hinkle moved to appoint Commissioner McLure as the Study Commission's Ex Officio Member. Commissioner Adler Seconded the motion. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

Gail Leeper and Robin Wight have been sworn in prior to meeting. Gary Snyder was sworn in by Sarah Graham, Clerk & Recorder, when he arrived for the Study Commission meeting.

STUDY COMMISSION'S SELECTION OF CHAIR; Robin Wight moved to select Gail Leeper as the Chair for the Study Commission Board. Gary Snyder seconded the motion.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano saying that its up to the Study Commission to now take over. She also thought it would be nice for the people who aren't familiar with a Study Commission that they should give an introduction of who they are, any concerns, and local government problems that she would like to know that.

Elena Gagliano was correct that the Study Commission would take over once the Chair was selected. Gail Leeper was unanimously voted to be Chair of the Study Commission as voted on by the Study Commission Members. Gail Leeper then conducted the remainder of the Study Commission meeting. Gail Leeper said this meeting is more for who is filling what position and to set a first meeting and that then would be the time to do in depth introductions.

STUDY COMMISSION'S SELECTION OF SECRETARY; Gail Leeper motioned that Robin Wight be the Secretary. Gary seconded the motion.

Public Comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if the Study Commission needs a Vice Chair. Gail Leeper isn't familiar with what she has read, didn't think so and that one of the current board members would run the meeting in her absence. Gail Leeper said that they are all learning still.

The motion for Robin Wight to be Secretary of the Study Commission passed unanimously.

County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw corrected that the Ex Officio is not a voting member.

MEETING DATES; 4th week of the month on a Monday or Thursday would be the best time to do. Gary, Robin, and Blanche could make the 4th week of the month work.

Where to meet; Commissioner McLure said they could use the Commissioner's room. They agreed zoom or in person works depending on the situation, weather, etc. They can use a room in the Granite County Courthouse for any in person meetings, and that information will be on the upcoming public agenda.

→ STUDY COMMISSION MEMBER TRAINING; There is about \$12,000 in the budget to use for training, expenses, etc. Study Commission may use the county car to attend the trainings. ←
Trainings next month are in person. Robin Wight read out the training specs for dates, times, and where. There are four packages you can purchase for more training. Gail stated that the white starter bundle is \$1,500 but all board members can get on and utilize the online course which entails an online 6-week course with digital resource library, tools, and exclusive webinars.

Gary Snyder motioned the approval of funds to be used for trainings. Robin Wight seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Bylaws and budget to be done at the first meeting. Gail Leeper said it is 2 years they are committing themselves to. It's not a personal thing, it's a study of government. May come down to that everything is fine. Gail is optimistic they are going to learn a lot and that in the end it's up to the people of the county.

Blaine Bradshaw stated that the Study Commission's authority is to review structural issues with the local government, not about added services, etc.

Gary Snyder mentioned that the reason he ran for the board is because he learned about the law. He is concerned what laws we are dealing with in Montana or local administrative laws. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw said that it's more of the structure of county commission and the training will be helpful.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano saying it was hard to hear Gary but quoted a MT Code annotated would do a good job answering any questions. She asked when is the next meeting and the time for that to be set up and that hopefully they have answers and can have someone join to answer any questions.

Gail Leeper said December 23rd at 6 pm would be the next meeting at Granite County Courthouse, and to be put the meeting agenda on County website and post the agenda where the County does already.

Gary Snyder asked how long the trainings are. Ashley Todd read off the training dates and times and places and said the deadline is December 4th to sign up.

Public Comment was received from Elena Gagliano saying this is just training and that no decisions are made. Regarding the regular meetings as a stand-alone commission that there should be a notice in the newspaper for their meetings. There is confusion for when the meetings are depending on where it's posted, people don't have access to all of the places mentioned.

Gail Leeper reiterated they are jumping in with both feet and going to do the best they can. It's important for the people to trust them, nothing is a secret, this isn't a bad thing and that its part of democracy. The first meeting may be complicated with figuring out next steps.

Blaine Bradshaw commented on any newspaper posting and that newspaper isn't required anymore. Website is sufficient to post agendas. Gail Leeper asked why spend money if we don't have to on newspaper notices. Robin Wight agreed, especially in the legal section. They agree the money should be spent towards trainings instead and agendas can be placed on the County website, Drummond, Facebook pages, and wherever the counties legally required to post for the county. Also noted that other parts of the county can have notice by emailing to people at Rock Creek and up at the lake. Robin Wight stated we need to be consistent in posting and do it at the same place every time. Gail Leeper said people need to educate themselves too, go find the agenda if you want it and we are human and make mistakes.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking about posting in Drummond, and where in Philipsburg and who's doing it. Gail Leeper noted Commissioner McLure is the Ex Officio and can volunteer to post agendas.

Gary Snyder had a comment that the public has the right to know, we have to make every effort that it's posted at a place they can find. Small rural areas have people who don't know where to go for even the County Commissioner's agendas. We should allow the public to freely know what's going on. Gary Snyder motioned to post in the newspaper the 1st time. Motion not seconded; motion failed. Gail Leeper will write a letter to the editor, she disagrees to spend the money on the newspaper. Robin Wight agreed that a letter to editor good idea and what a study commission actually is and will help people understand exactly what this study board is for.

Robin Wight moved to adjourn; Gary seconded the motion. The motion passed and carried unanimously, and adjournment of Study Commission meeting was at 10:43 am.

MONTANA COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT PLAN; The County Commission then resumed their public meeting. Commissioners tabled this agenda item for a future agenda on the 10th of December.

The commission went into a recess taken at 10:44 a.m.

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY LINE EASEMENT FOR THE TOWN OF PHILIPSBURG; The commissioners reviewed the easement through county property for the water and sewer utility in the Roseland addition. Commissioner Hinkle moved to approve the water and sewer line easement. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously. The said easement will be recorded by the Granite County Attorney, ~~Blaine Bradshaw, with the Granite County Clerk & Recorder's Office~~ once the document is approved by the Town of Philipsburg.

VILLAGE LANE PARK FUEL REDUCTION;

Anaconda Service Forester, Jacob Lee, joined us for the commissioners meeting. Jacob presented to the County Commissioners that the DNRC was awarded \$330k from federal and other sources. He was approached by president of the Village Lane HOA looking to do some fuel reduction work. He is here wondering if the County is interested in having some fuel reduction (timber thinning) done in the County park land directly adjacent to the subdivision with a 75/25 cost split, 25% of cost would be on the County and 75% with existing grant funding. He states its not legally binding in any way at this point. Maps shows south and southwest areas where the sun dries the timber out. Blue map shows local precipitation and that on the park, there are some lighter fuels and other concerning areas within. Commissioner Adler says we should have taken care of it already, not get paid to take care of it. Jacob Lee said he could get public bids to bring back and present to the Commissioners before they approve or deny the fuel reduction project. Commissioner Adler says the Commission can't decide about this without bids. Commissioner McLure states we have a parks fund; but not a crew. Commissioner Adler suggests someone should go up and physically look at the park. Commissioner McLure asked if there is any obligation to the county, County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw mentioned to send a Commissioner up there to determine what we are looking at and see if there is a need for thinning due to a fire hazard. Jacob Lee encouraged the Commission to encourage the Forest Service to thin their lands west of the subdivision as there is a clear fire hazard due to the density of the trees on Forest Service land. Blaine Bradshaw suggested sending a letter from County Commissioners office to the Forest Service. Jacob Lee asked if the Commissioners would like to move forward and get a bid. Commissioner Hinkle said its not any more of a fire hazard than anything out here anywhere. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw mentions to commissioners that there could be some liability exposure there depending upon what is found out during the site visit. Blaine Bradshaw also encouraged the Commission to not accept public park land in the future if they do not want to maintain it. The Commission tabled this agenda item until the spring when they can accomplish the site visit to the County park land.

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER; The Commission went into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Closed meeting minutes are kept separately.

The Session Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

December 3, 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 and Commissioner Adler attending. Also attending was Clerk Brandi Galiher, 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 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, who attended via Zoom.

→ BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner Adler moved to accept the board minutes for November 26th, 2024. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously. ←

CORRESPONDENCE;

Mail was received from Caterpillar in regards to the protection plan expiring November 25th, 2024. Commissioner Adler read it and spoke with Paul Alt. Paul Alt will talk with the salesman in regards to options. Commissioner McLure asked that this be put on next week's agenda.

Electronic mail was received from numerous customers of Commercial Roof Consulting & Inspections with letters of recommendation for the company. Brief discussion on this letter of support. This does not need to be on a further agenda.

Electronic mail was received from the MT DEQ with a public notice for the General Permit for Sand and Gravel Operations that discharge to state surface waters. Commissioner Adler questioned if this needs to be on our agenda to discuss bids. Commissioner McLure advised it is an acknowledgement that it is a statewide permit.

Mail was received from Citizens Alliance Bank for the Granite Justice Court Disbursement detail for November with a total of \$5, 335.

Mail was received from Montana Forest Consultants introducing the Forestry Financial Assistance Program (FFAP). This offers project financing and grant funding for forestry projects in Montana.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was received.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt was excused from the meeting as he was handling an important equipment matter. Commissioner Adler stated that there was a call regarding icy spots up Henderson Creek. Commissioner Adler stated that the crew has been doing a good job. Paul is looking to rent a skid-steer while the county's is broken down. The skid-steer is still under

warranty. Paul Alt called-in during the meeting and updated Commissioner Adler stating they did get a skid-steer to use for free in the meantime. Commissioner McLure asked if there is a bridge update but Commissioner Adler did not think so. Commissioner Adler suggested we check in with Great West in order to decide what needs to be done. Commissioner Adler stated that Solid Waste seems to be doing well. No updates. Commissioner Adler stated that all trucks should be good to go when the snow flies. Commissioner Adler also mentioned there was discussion about shutting a gate up Bear Gulch but it has been ruined again. He suggested possibly a "Drive at Your Own Risk" sign.

County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw made the Commission aware an issue that may need on a further agenda. There is a statute in which a separate financial trustee (appointed by District Court via application from the County) is required for certain cemetery district finances in addition to the District Board. This would require creating separate trustee with the funds held in trust. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that the county commission could be a good choice for this. He has researched the issue, but a financial trustee has not been set up in the past and will need to be discussed on a further agenda (between Commission and Cemetery District Boards) in January for discussion.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6428.18 feet; 15.84 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner Adler moved to continue releasing 6 CFS which matches the estimated inflows; in alignment with the current FERC Order in place. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

NUISANCE DOG ORDINANCE RENEWAL; County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw says it has been good having this ordinance, it is one more tool in the toolbox for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Adler stated that he is unsure about the ordinance and is not for it. Commissioner Adler has concern on its benefits in regards to costs of enforcement. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that it does help the Sheriff's Office in certain cases. Commissioner McLure stated that there was only one county-wide nuisance dog incident and the others seem to be within town limits of Philipsburg and Drummond. Commissioner McLure stated that she agrees with Commissioner Adler and questions the benefit of the ordinance. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw explained that depending on the scenario it could be more beneficial that citing with Disorderly Conduct, under the state criminal code. Commissioner Adler moved to let the existing ordinance sunset. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated Ordinance 2023-1 terminates at the end of the current year if not renewed so the motion is sufficient to let the ordinance (Granite County Ordinance 2023-1) sunset. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw will let the sheriff know.

Public comment was received by Elena Gagliano and questioned if it is being renewed or not. There was a delay with the conversation due to some technical difficulties hearing one another. Commissioner McLure advised Elena Gagliano that a motion was made to sunset the ordinance. She questioned the resolution number and stated that it did not look right.

County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw clarified that if passed, the proposed ordinance would be Granite County Ordinance 2024-1 and reiterated that this is an ordinance and not a resolution. There were no further public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

SECOND AMENDED BYLAWS OF THE GRANITE COUNTY DUI TASKFORCE; Commissioner McLure had a question about the last paragraph on the last page with a wrong date noted. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated there must have been a typo and the date will be corrected. Commissioner McLure questioned what was being amended and County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw advised that it is that the quarterly meetings will now be on Wednesday instead of Tuesday. Commissioner Adler motioned on this with the correction being made. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw noted to the Commission that in regards to the lease agreement with Edwards Tract A Marina, as they have a new president, so Blaine Bradshaw will make a correction to the recently amended lease. This will be added to the agenda for next Tuesday for discussion and decision.

GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2024-17 AMENDING COUNTY BUDGET TO USE CARES ACT FUNDING TO FUND STUDY COMMISSION BUDGET IN FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; Commissioner McLure stated that the budget is being amended because it was not certified to put \$12,000 in the study commission fund taken out of CARES Act. It was inadvertently missed on the certification of the budget. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that there is language in the draft resolution stating that any unused money goes into the general fund, and this is consistent with state statute.

LETTER TO THE STATE TO LOWER SPEED LIMIT NEAR BEARMOUTH ON I-90; Commissioner Adler stated that he thinks this should be postponed for now, as more information should be obtained to move forward. Commissioner McLure asked County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw if a letter needs to be written in regards to this issue. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw stated that a letter could be written to have a speed study done. He also suggested that it could be encouraged a letter to request more sanding be done in the canyon (I-90) west of Drummond. Commissioner Adler agreed with that and inquired what it would take to move forward. Commissioner McLure questioned if it is worth writing a letter and who would write it. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw advised that sending a written letter would be advisable so there is a record of the request and he was willing to draft the letter for the Commission to sign and send. Commissioner Adler expressed that he wants to move forward with getting a draft letter written up. Commissioner McLure advised to put this on the agenda next week to review the draft letter and decide upon it by motion. This will be tabled until next week for further discussion and decision.

The Session Adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW
STUDY COMMISSION TIMETABLE

Study Commission of County/City/Town of Granite County

Timetable For Study Commission Deliberations and Actions

This timetable for the deliberations and actions of the Granite County Study Commission is established as required by 7-3-186, MCA for the purpose of assuring full public information concerning the Local Government Review process in our County/City/Town and enabling informed citizen participation.

All meetings of the Study Commission are open to the public.

Date	Action
3-21-24	First Study Commission organizational meeting, Town Hall
12-10-24	Montana State University Local Government Center regional Study Commission
12-12-24	Trainings
3rd Thursday of each month	Regular monthly Study Commission meeting, Town Hall. And thereafter the first Monday in each succeeding month through May 5, 2025, at 7:00 pm.
Feb 13 th - 2025	Timetable established and published within 90 days of organizational meeting
3-20-25	First Public Hearing—to gather citizen input on the form, functions, powers, and problems of city government and the adequacy of city services
Mid July 2025	Consider scheduling all public hearings and community engagement workshops on Tuesday or Thursday evenings. Middle of the week times tend to be easier for folks to attend than beginning or end of the week times.
Mid Oct 2025	Adopt a Tentative Report
2026	Second Public Hearing—to gather citizen response to Tentative Report
End of June	Adopt the Final Report
2026	Provide the County Clerk and Recorder a ballot certificate if a proposal is to be placed on the November 3, 2025, ballot 2026 ballot
End of Feb	If the final report proposes an alteration of local government, prepare public education materials to help citizens understand the proposal and compare the proposal with existing governmental form, structures, and powers
April 2026	Approve public education materials and conduct public forum
June 2026	If the voters approve a proposed alteration of the government, initiate transition planning
90 days after general election 2026	Study Commission term of office ends Adopt transition advisory plan Deposit all minutes and other Study Commission documents with the county clerk and recorder Submit a copy of the final report and any proposed changes to the MSU Local Government Center

Template Study Commission Budget

Total Funds Levied or Appropriated

\$12,000

Election		
Training Tuition/Registration Fees	\$2,325.00	1500. + 825.
Travel	\$3,128.00	1203.32
Space rental		1296.00
Refreshments		Education 1796.00
Printing		1332.
Postage		
Materials & Supplies	\$500.00	
Advertising	\$2,000.00	
Staff		
Consultants/Facilitation/Education	\$2,500.00	
Other:		
Total Expenses	\$10,453.00	0

Approved by Study Commission on: 12-23-24

Study Commission Chair (Print & Sign) Gail Leeper

Study Commission Clerk/Secretary (Print & Sign) ROBIN WILGET 12/23/2024

Submitted to governing body on: