

**County of Granite  
Study Commission  
July 24th, 2025, 6 p.m. Meeting Minutes**

Study commissioners present: Luke Ulatowski, Elena Gagliano, Bryan Senn

Members of the public present: Jackie Butler

Absent: Ex officio Blanche McLure

**CALL TO ORDER:** Temporary board chair Ulatowski called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The three study commissioners, all newly-appointed, introduced themselves to the public.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment on matters not on the agenda was received.

**BOARD OFFICER APPOINTMENTS:** Ulatowski volunteered to take the position of secretary. Gagliano motioned to appoint Ulatowski secretary, and Senn seconded. The motion passed 2-0, with Ulatowski abstaining. Senn volunteered for the position of chair. Gagliano motioned to appoint Senn as chair, Ulatowski seconded, and the motion passed 3-0. Senn motioned to appoint Gagliano as vice chair, seconded by Ulatowski. Butler commented, asking if the new study commissioners have to undergo training or bring MSU Local Government Center Director Dan Clark to town for that purpose. Senn stated, "I sure hope so." The motion passed 2-0, with Gagliano abstaining.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:** Ulatowski noted the study commission's starting budget was \$12,000, and the former study commissioners left behind a current budget of \$10,640. Ulatowski noted Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw had refused to represent the Granite County Study Commission and that Bradshaw had recommended the commission hire a minutes-writer. The commission agreed not to hire a minutes-writer or legal counsel, with Ulatowski filling the former role and Clark and Powell County Attorney Ellen Donohue posited as providers of legal advice. Gagliano stated she would like to see McLure act as a liaison between the study commission and other boards and committees. Gagliano also recommended the study commission alternate between regular meetings and working meetings.

Gagliano derided missing minutes from the prior Granite study commissioners on the Granite County website and recommended the current study commissioners research Daniels County's procedures amidst its local government review. Butler commented, stating it is a possibility that the Granite study commission will join the Philipsburg study commission and noted Greg Overstreet, Philipsburg town attorney and Granite special deputy, could serve as a resource in law.

On the topic of training, Ulatowski asked Senn and Gagliano if they had been sent links to the free MSU online course for study commissioners that he had undertaken. Senn stated he had

never been sent a link or contacted by anyone from MSU on the matter. Gagliano stated clerk & recorder Sarah Graham tried to get Gagliano in touch with an individual from MSU to enter the course, but Gagliano never heard back from the individual after trying to contact her. Gagliano further criticized a perceived lack of a budget report for the study commission from the county.

Senn stated receiving training from Clark would be useful. Ulatowski asked if Senn could start with the online course before a decision on paying to bring Clark to town for a training session, and Senn stated the course would make a good start.

**SURVEY DISCUSSION:** The three survey questions designated by the prior study commissioners were analyzed alongside an email from former secretary Robin Wight outlining the former plan for collecting answers: visiting various organizations and giving their members handouts.

Ulatowski and Senn agreed there are too few questions and that the initial plan would not have reached enough residents. Senn recommended educational visits to organizations separate from collecting survey answers. Gagliano recommended an online survey, while Senn recommended a mailout for voters across the county. Ulatowski offered to speak with Graham on the logistics of a mass mailing.

**LOCATION DISCUSSION:** Ulatowski stated the Granite County Courtroom is not a good meeting space for the study commission over accessibility issues. Gagliano also noted the courtroom is occupied during some Thursday nights. The Philipsburg Public Library, Granite High School, the lobby of the Granite County Courthouse and Philipsburg Town Hall were posited as potential locations. Gagliano stated livestreaming capabilities were not a factor as she could stream from her tablet. The study commission opted to make a decision on the matter during the following meeting.

**COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY:** Ulatowski requested streaming over Zoom to allow members of the public to comment online. Senn agreed to write a column recapping study commission meetings for the Philipsburg Mail.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting was set for August 7th at 6 p.m., location undetermined. Discussion on Daniels County procedures and the ex officio position were added under “New Business.”

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.