

**May 20, 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 via Zoom. 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 Luke Ulatowski of the *Philipsburg Mail* and members of the general public, Elena Gagliano.**

**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 May 13, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. No public comment was received, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE;**

**Electronic mail was received from Ashley Todd about DEQ Solid Waste Landfill Inspection – Drummond on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Correspondence was received from Dr. Gary Snyder, Local Government Review Study Commission Board Member, with a notice of impending suit Re: Constitutional Violations if certain audio recordings weren't provided to him promptly; this was Dr. Snyder's first request to the County Commission requesting audio recordings of Granite County Study Commission meetings.**

**Electronic Mail was received from the Montana Department of Transportation with the 2025-2029 Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) of statewide transportation improvements for the next five years.**

**Mail was received from FEMA that the Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Map have been completed for the community. The County Commission will set a public meeting on an upcoming agenda to discuss this letter further, but the County Attorney and County Planning Director are working on these matters.**

**Task Order 26-07-6-11-026-0 between the State of Montana and the Department of Public Health and Human Services and Granite County was received for approval and signature. Commissioner McLure moved to accept the new contract for the fiscal year. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mail was received from the Montana Department of Transportation stating that they have started the process of conducting a speed study on MT 1 from Sherryl to Drummond Airport Road and relocating the 30mph speed signs further away.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Brad Sturdevant, a resident of East Fork, raised concerns about the poor condition of the East Fork Road, particularly the last mile and a half, which he described as the worst he's seen in 25 years. He questioned whether there is an agreement in place with Missouri River Contractors, especially with the current level of heavy hauling—16 trips a day of riprap from Drummond—and the use of side dumps, which have created muddy and hazardous conditions. The tall reflectors were brought up in discussion and why they are there. Commissioner Adler explained that the tall reflectors are intended to help navigate snowy conditions and see where you are going. Commissioner Kulaski noted that gravel for East Fork had been mentioned in a previous gravel bid under former Commissioner Hinkle. Commissioner McLure suggested that the road may need better blading and more suitable gravel.

Public comment was received from Janeen Bonney and Donald Smith, who's going to take Janeen Bonney's place as Courthouse custodian, and asked about his hours per day and what that looks like. Commissioner McLure said Janeen goes home as she has to be here before and after people. She works a specific time and has to come back. This will be discussed at a later time.

**ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT;** Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt updated the Commissioners on Road and Solid Waste. Paul Alt is cold patching up Rock Creek. Three loads of cold patch came in yesterday, and that's all they have until November of this year. Everyone else is working up on Bear Gulch Road. Blading was partially done on Upper Rock Creek yesterday. Commissioner Kulaski said today looks like the end of the storm system, and hopefully, roads start drying up. Commissioner Kulaski asked about Mag Chloride, and Paul said they sold out, and every county is on a 50k budget. It won't affect us at all as we pay monthly. Prices will stay the same, unless there is some unforeseen problem.

**SOLID WASTE:** Solid Waste is doing well. DEQ will be at the Drummond Solid Waste site on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Kulaski asked if the backhoe is still running. Paul said it's running. Brad came up to talk to Paul Alt regarding East Fork Road and how the contractors are beating the road up and redoing the spillway. Brad brought up the gravel again and how it turns to slime. Paul Alt agreed it ended up getting pretty muddy. Paul said they will keep tearing it up to put fiber in via Blackfoot. There are no plans to do much work until all this work is done, so we can fix what is needed. Brad reiterated how he has never seen the road that slimy. Paul said we would do more road work once all the construction was done. Brad asked to keep in mind that with increased traffic, the maintenance will have to be more frequent. Hopefully, good gravel helps. Commissioner McLure asked about the back road from MT 1 into Drummond for the demonstration. Paul Alt said he will try to get them to do the ½ mile stretch. We'd have to do a contract to buy the material. Paul Alt is

shooting for August and to do bridge to bridge on South Main Street in Drummond. Supposed to be an Asphalt wizard. Cold patch and Durapatch are the road's makeup now. Stewart Lake Road was brought up for the gravel discussion from last week. Paul Alt had looked at its needs and agreed that this is something that needs to be done. Paul said probably in the Fall, as it needs to dry out, as maintained roads are a priority.

**GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT;** Brad Liermann of FWP and Alex Scolavino of FWP, and Peter Brown 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 6429.11 feet, 4.68 inches below full pool. Blaine Bradshaw mentioned that Paul Tallon said the USGS gauge may be off slightly. Brad said if we get a lot more rain, we're going to have to drop. Commissioner Kulaski said there's almost 5" of moisture in Pederson Meadows and thinks we will fill pretty quickly. Commissioner Adler said it's getting pretty dry out already. Boulder Creek came up about a 1" inch as it's going into the ground. Commissioner Kulaski moved to stay at 40 CFS to match inflows for a week, subject to agency approval, which aligns with the estimated inflows and the current temporary modification consent agreement in place. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

**PHILIPSBURG SKATE PARK BUDGET REQUEST;** Ruby Kikkert, Chair of the Skate Park Association, informed the Granite County Commissioners about grants received for skate park construction (up to \$300,000) and provided a packet detailing the grants. She requested a general donation for additional park needs like picnic tables, sun shades, and benches—not all to be funded by the County. There is \$12,000 available in the County's park fund. Commissioner Adler questioned if funds needed to be split with Drummond; Commissioner McLure clarified that allocation can be decided based on project needs. Ruby emphasized the request is a one-time donation, not multiple requests, and the Town will take on all liability and responsibility for park maintenance and expenses once the skate park is completed. Commissioner McLure moved to donate \$5,000 to the Philipsburg Skate Park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kulaski and approved with no public comments. Ruby expressed gratitude. Blaine Bradshaw noted that while developers aren't required to contribute to parks, future funding may still be possible.

**FLINT CREEK PROJECT COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT, AWARD ENGINEERING FIRM;** Commissioner McLure moved to accept the proposal by HDR Engineering for the Comprehensive Assessment (Part 12D) for Flint Creek Dam Project. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. Blaine Bradshaw said they have done some work for the County and they do a good job but are expensive. The motion passed unanimously.

**DUI TASK FORCE PLAN;** Commissioner McLure approved the DUI Task Force Plan. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. Blaine Bradshaw said it's a good plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Weed spraying and grass seeding to be completed by Blackfoot Telecommunications (in certain county rights of way for the fiber project) was brought up by County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw said that JB Ray with Blackfoot did respond to Bradshaw's recent email,

and said the payment by the subcontractor is forthcoming and that Jason Robertson, an engineer with Blackfoot Telecommunications, will be contacting Paul Alt soon on a plan for weeding spraying and seeding. County may just need to do work and bill them. An upcoming agenda item for these issues will be scheduled soon.

**RESOLUTION 2025-8; A GRANITE RESOLUTION ABANDONING A PORTION OF THE NORTH FORK OF THE LOWER WILLOW CREEK ROAD, A COUNTY ROAD;** Commissioner McLure moved to adopt Resolution 2025-8, A Granite County Resolution Abandoning a Portion of the North Fork of the Lower Willow Creek Road. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed 2 to 1 with Commissioner Adler dissenting. The Resolution was signed by the two Commissioners voting for the adoption of this Resolution, and the County Attorney's Office will mail certified letters in which Resolution No. 2025-8 will be included, and the letter will be sent to all stake holders.

**RESPONSE LETTER TO ELENA GAGLIANO;** Commissioner Adler said this is a good letter, and thank you. Blaine Bradshaw said it looks fine to him. Commissioner Kulaski moved to send the letter to Ms. Gagliano. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

Electronic mail came in from Rick McGill regarding for East Fork Road maintenance, writing on behalf of 38 individual homeowners. This was discussed earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Adler called Paul Alt to call the homeowners and discuss the situation with them on the contractors beating up the roads. To be discussed further when Paul Alt is available.

**GRANITE COUNTY STUDY COMMISSION UPDATE;** Regarding the letter from Dr. Gary Snyder in Correspondence. Dr. Snyder, who is currently on the Granite County Study Commission, would like to see Elena Gagliano appointed right away, and wants to keep doing meetings, but Elena Gagliano has not applied yet. Commissioner's Assistant mailed the USB drive he is asking for regarding the meeting audio from the Local Government Review meetings. Commissioner McLure asked in this letter where he is stating to continue with the meeting, and you can't set a meeting without a quorum. He can't set a meeting with just himself. Blaine Bradshaw said that would be an open meeting violation and criminal conduct. Commissioner Adler said we will see who applies and take the proper steps. The Commission is properly and publicly advertising for the two (2) vacant Study Commission member positions in the Philipsburg Mail on May 22, 29, 2025.

Commissioner Adler adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.