

**County of Granite
Study Commission
Philipsburg Public Library Meeting Room
August 7th, 2025, 6 p.m. Meeting Minutes**

Study commissioners present: Vice Chair Elena Gagliano, Secretary Luke Ulatowski

Ex officio present: Blanche McLure

Members of the public present: None

Absent: Chair Bryan Senn

CALL TO ORDER: In absence of Senn, Gagliano called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with a role call of those present. Gagliano noted the meeting room did not contain a flag and opted to eschew the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gagliano stated Ulatowski's minutes for the July 24th meeting were hard to follow and that parts related to her own statements from that meeting did not reflect the words she used or the manner in which she speaks. She also stated she received the minutes late, noting Ulatowski had initially submitted them in a file type that she cannot open.

Gagliano noted she wanted the minutes to include the July 24th meeting's mention and discussion of Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw refusing to represent the study commission. Discussion between Gagliano and McLure turned to Bradshaw before Ulatowski offered a point of order to return discussion to "Approval of minutes." Gagliano stated she did not approve the minutes, and she moved on to the next agenda item. No motion was made.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

DISCUSS, DECIDE ON MEETING LOCATION: Ulatowski noted that while library director Gina Vale would allow the study commission to use the library's meeting room, she would not allow it to use the library proper without an employee present. Gagliano spoke in favor of returning to the Granite County Courthouse for in-person meetings, using the Granite County Commission office instead of the courtroom. She also recommended hosting meetings on Zoom using courthouse wifi.

McLure offered to bring the proposition of using the commission office to the commission itself. She also recommended the election office as another option since it is on the main floor and contains tables and wifi service while remaining unoccupied until the next election.

Ulatowski agreed the election office would make a good secondary option and motioned to have McLure present the commission office as the study commission's meeting location at the following Granite County Commission meeting. McLure again noted the election office option, and Ulatowski amended his motion to state that if use of the commission office is not approved, the study commission shall use the election office as its official meeting location. McLure added that the justice court backroom on the bottom floor could also potentially be used.

The motion passed 2-0. After this, Gagliano stated "Thursday is out" as a regular meeting date because the courthouse can get packed on Thursdays with important court hearings. She proposed Wednesdays at 6 p.m. A motion on the matter was saved for the end of the meeting.

DISCUSS, DECIDE ON ZOOM/LIVESTREAMING OPTIONS, BUDGET ALLOCATION:

Ulatowski stated he spoke with clerk & recorder Sarah Graham on implementing Zoom for meetings out of the study commission budget, which would cost \$159.90 a year. Gagliano noted Zoom is already in use at the courthouse and recommended looking into using the county's Zoom account. Ulatowski noted accounts are charged "per host" and that if the Granite County Commission agreed, it would have to share its login information.

Gagliano brought Zoom's free, limited option to attention. Ulatowski argued the 40-minute time limit does not meet the study commission's needs. Gagliano argued that while it is a pain, the host can simply start up another meeting after the time limit is reached.

Gagliano turned attention to the study commission's budget, with expenditures included in the meeting materials. She asked if the \$12,000 budget is for the duration of the study commission's tenure or if it is for a year; Ulatowski explained it is the former unless the county commission opts to allocate more funding later.

Gagliano then noted she had submitted additions to the August 7th agenda written by Ulatowski that were not included. The additions were intended as hyperlinks on the digital agenda, allowing pre-meeting access to meeting materials for everyone. She offered an agenda from the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority as an example.

Ulatowski moved to have the study commission look into whether or not it could use the county's Zoom account or if the study commission could use a free option. Gagliano stated hyperlinking documents on agendas is important and asked what exactly Ulatowski's motion was for. Ulatowski requested the hyperlink topic have a separate motion and reiterated his own. Gagliano seconded Ulatowski's motion, and it passed 2-0, with no further motion offered.

PROPOSE STUDY COMMISSION SURVEY QUESTIONS: Gagliano stated the topic should be tabled along with its subtopic regarding the logistics and cost of a mass mailing. Ulatowski did not oppose. No motion was made.

DISCUSS COLUMN, ADVERTISING: Ulatowski stated Senn asked to write a monthly column, 500 words max, recapping study commission discussion and decisions for the Silver State

Post/Philipsburg Mail and was given permission by the newspaper's managing editor, Peggy Kerr, although Senn was unable or unwilling to write a column for the study commission's first month. Ulatowski also stated he would look into purchasing public notices for meetings while noting this is not usually done for regular meetings. Ulatowski suggested investing in physical media such as fliers and postings at the post office.

Gagliano approved the idea of a 500-word monthly column and stated each column could note the date of the next meeting. Ulatowski agreed this would make for an economical way of advertising and that it could have the study commission decide more meeting dates in advance. Gagliano further recommended having public notices announce three study commission meetings in advance. Gagliano and Ulatowski agreed to have Ulatowski report back on notices and advertising.

NEW BUSINESS

DANIELS COUNTY PROCEDURES DISCUSSION: Gagliano noted she had sent a number of links to Daniels County Study Commission materials to be hyperlinked on the agenda and that two printouts of agendas from that study commission, brought by Luke Ulatowski, were unnecessary. She pointed to topics discussed by that study commission as examples for Granite County's and recommended watching a video from MSU's Dan Clark included on the Daniels County Study Commission webpage.

Gagliano stated she had signed up for MSU's study commission training course and spoke to the Granite County Study Commission's general need for training. She noted the training session Clark provided for both study commissions in April did not have minutes or a recording posted. She recommended putting a link up for the discussion with Clark and that study commissioners should reach out to him with any questions, also offering to reach out to him herself with agreement on the message from other study commissioners.

EX OFFICIO DISCUSSION: McLure clarified she has no voting power and helps with logistics, offering county data and facilitating meeting spaces. Gagliano suggested an ex officio is typically a clerk & recorder or someone who knows how to work with Zoom and spread out agendas. McLure noted she spent 17 years as clerk & recorder. Gagliano stated that if the ex officio situation were "cleared," then the study commission would not have to go through Graham and then Granite commission assistant Maranda Williams.

NEXT MEETING: The meeting was set for 6 p.m., August 27th, at the courthouse.