

April 1, 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 in person. 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 members of the general public, Elena Gagliano via Zoom.

Commissioner Adler requested that microphones and videos be enabled for Zoom attendees when they wish to speak during the Zoom meeting.

BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner McLure moved to accept the board minutes for March 25, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Postcard from Blackfoot Communications with notice of their annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2025, in Missoula.

Mail was received from Chuck Johnson which include his ranches' formal, written response to the Montana Rail Link Environmental and Historical Report that he had sent to the federal surface transportation board.

An electronic mail was received from Ben Grass Captain of Frontiers Racing, notifying the Commissioners of the Pintler Classic, a bike race, scheduled for July 11-13. Commissioners discussed previous races and blading roads, noting that this has been a problem in the past, as it makes the roads too soft. However, the bike organization had requested the blade job be done in the past. Matter will be placed on a future agenda.

The County Treasurer presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division, and the Granite County Treasurer, as well as the Granite County Treasurer Interlocal Agreement #DOJ-MVD_FY2025-0047.

An email was received from Deb Robinson, notifying Commissioners of the Student Prevention/Health Fair scheduled for April 28, 2025 in both Philipsburg (morning) and Drummond (afternoon).

Electronic Mail was received from Bonnie Knopf with the 2025 MACo PCT Property Appraisals, which will begin in May. They would like the contact information for the building to be filled out and returned.

Electronic mail was received from Dan Lucas with an Application to serve on the Granite County Tax Appeal Board. The Commissioners approved the application as the member has already been on the board before.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A public comment was received via text from Paul Tallon regarding the dam's CFS and going to 20 CFS.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt joined the commission for this portion of the meeting to update on Roads and Solid Waste, getting rid of rocks off roads, and doing maintenance on equipment in the shop. Ready to start blading, but there's a lot of frost heaves coming out on Rock Creek Road, etc. Next week is forecasted to be nice weather so will be able to get some more done on the roads. The truck at the shop should be done in the next 2 weeks (snowplow). Paul wants to ensure everything is in order before signing off on the claim. It's the mag truck they use, so it will be needed.

SOLID WASTE; Quiet for now, but should be picking up here in the next month. Commissioner Kulaski brought up the pre-trip checkbooks, which are expected to arrive today. Paul Alt brought up the dust pods and the mag chloride. People like them or hate it, it seems. He spoke with a sales representative willing to come and demo some products, including a reclaimer machine. Might be able to use the reclaimer machine (demo) to rejuvenate a half mile of South Main Street by rodeo grounds in Drummond and make it a better road surface hopefully at nominal cost. It just grinds the asphalt up, and then it self-rejuvenates; just need to add oil to it to repurpose the grounded material that is then pressed. The Commission is excited for the County crew to be able to benefit from the demo.

The Commissioners went into a closed session for a personnel matter.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; According to the USGS lake level gauge and the dam tender's report for the week, the lake level was reported at 6428.83 feet, 8.04 inches below full pool. Commissioner Kulaski moved to proceed to 20 CFS to match inflows for a week, subject to agency approval, or remain at 15 CFS if the 20 CFS level is not approved, which aligns with the estimated inflows and the current temporary modification agreement in place (week to week). Brad Liermann and Alex Scolavino of FWP joined the Commissioners via zoom. Brad Liermann is in favor of 20 CFS, but needs to discuss with his supervisor first before giving final word. Peter Brown from the public was also on Zoom to hear the proceedings. Commissioner Adler said it's snowing and raining here so it'll fill. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUESTS FOR FY26; Commissioner Kulaski moved to have Maranda Williams sign the applications (for Flint Creek Dam Project, and for Gold Coin Road Bridge Project / Middle Fork Road Bridge Project) on their behalf when the applications are completed and submit them. Commissioner McLure seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BID OPENINGS: GRAVEL AND ANNUAL TRUCKING; Commissioner Adler opened 4 bids for gravel/trucking needs. First, Bob Weaver Construction has 10,000 yards at \$12 per yard, totaling \$120,000. Second, Greany Trucking: 1 truck and trailer, 145 belly dump hauls,

18 yards. Third, T3 Rock Products' bid is \$13.39 per yard for gravel. Fourth, 348 Gravel Company's bid is \$13.50 per yard for gravel. The discussion was held to accept bids, then determine where to source materials for specific jobs depending on what geographic area in the County the gravel is needed as that closest gravel yard to each project will be the cheapest per the bidding when considering pricing (lowest reasonable bid to be awarded per law). Paul Alt said it's time to put some gravel down in the lower valley. Lakeshore Drive was mentioned, but that will be a separate bid, Paul Alt said. A discussion was held on where to obtain gravel for specific jobs. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept all the bids for gravel to determine percentages for each district, up to 15,000 yards, depending on the needs in each geographic area of the County as this will be the most cost effective. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Blaine Bradshaw suggested using one of the bids (one closest geographically) for Lakeshore Drive if gravel is needed for there this summer.

Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the 18 yards at \$ 145 per hour, trucking bid (truck and belly dump trailer) from Greany Trucking LLC for the calendar year 2025. Commissioner McLure seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATING THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN CWPP FOR GRANITE COUNTY; Sheriff Scott Dunkerson, Jake Lee from Anaconda Service Forester with MT DNRC, and Marquis Walker (also with MT DNRC) discussed needed updates to Granite County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The plan hasn't been updated since 2005, and the goal is to address wildfire risks, particularly for new homeowners unfamiliar with the severity of fires. A reimbursement grant was introduced and proposed for the County to apply for that would cover \$50,000–\$100,000 incurred in updating the said plan using an engineer's services (engineer or firm selected through complete public bidding process), requiring the County to provide upfront funds, but would then be fully reimbursed if receive the grant. The said grant is administered by the MT DNRC, but is federal infrastructure bill funding that is used. Jake Lee also mentioned that Granite County does not currently have a Fire Warden, but the Commission did mention the Fire Warden is Sean O'Connor, Fire Chief with Valley Fire District. In addition to the CWPP, two other grants were discussed: A Community Rural Fire Growth Grant to enhance fire response and a County Forestry Management Grant for forest management. The County is collaborating with Jackie Bolster and Valerie Cartwright (head 911 dispatcher) on efforts to complete the application (draft now) for the planning grant for the County's CWPP and the draft application (with a few changes needed) is now awaiting the Commissioners' approval for the said grant application. Sheriff Scott Dunkerson emphasized the importance of having a plan, especially since evacuations have been necessary since 2005. Blaine Bradshaw said regardless of whether the grant is received, the plan needs updated for public safety reasons. The planning grant will reimburse the County once the CWPP is signed, approved, and submitted. Jake Lee projected a 1-2 year timeline to complete the County's CWPP, which requires community involvement. The grant application is due by April 24, 2025, and Jake Lee expressed optimism about securing the funding. The engineering firm will gather community input to develop the CWPP. There

were also discussions about quarterly reports, with Sheriff Dunkerson noting some areas for improvement in the draft application before submission. Commissioner McLure moved to approve the grant application to update the County's CWPP. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Adler adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.