

**March 18, 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.**

**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 11, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE;**

**Electronic mail was received from Kelly Cotton, Director of Constituent Services and Regional Outreach for Tim Sheehy, stating that Senator Sheehy is accepting Congressionally Directed Spending requests for the upcoming FY26 Funding Cycle.**

**Electronic mail was received from Jessica Martin (FNP from Granite County Medical Center) and Michelle Kirsch (RN with Granite County Medical Center), who were applying for vacant positions on the Board of Health. Commissioner McLure moved to accept Jessica Martins's application for the Board of Health Commissioner Kulaski seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner McLure moved to accept Michelle Kirsch's application for the Board of Health. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comments were received. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Electronic mail was received from Lauren DeWit, who wants to install FAA weather cameras in Philipsburg. The matter may be placed on an upcoming agenda.**

**Electronic Mail was received from Scott Dunkerson with a proposed list of needs at the jail for budget requests.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Written Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if the commissioners approved the 3/11 MRL meeting summary as the official minutes. Commissioner Adler said since it was an informational public meeting and not a public hearing, they didn't make a motion but thought the summarized version looked good and that the recording is available on the County's YouTube Channel.**

**ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt was excused from this meeting. Dunkelberg Road is pretty narrow;**

**Commissioner Adler stated that they would like to cut the road and remove excess material. Commissioner Adler mentioned that the Ford truck with the aluminum head is broken down, so we may need to consider a pickup at budget time.**

**Solid Waste is doing good. Commissioner Kulaski asked about Mag Chloride for County roads this summer. Commissioner Adler said pricing is being reviewed as Mag Chloride is needed soon.**

**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 6428.75 feet, 9 "inches below full pool. Commissioner McLure moved to proceed to 20 CFS, subject to agency approval, or remain at 15 CFS if the 20 CFS level is not approved by the agencies, which aligns with the estimated inflows and the current FERC Order in place. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. No public comments were received. The motion passed unanimously.**

**CLAIMS; The Commissioners reviewed Claims from February 2025. Commissioner McLure moved to accept the claims for February. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comments were received. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Sherriff Scott Dunkerson and Treasurer Ashley Todd joined the Commissioner's meeting in person.**

**CIVIC PLUS WEBSITE HOST FOR COUNTY WEBSITE; Clerk and Recorder Sarah Graham updated the commissioners about the potential switch to a new county website hosted by Civic Plus. The current website cannot support a .gov domain, is very limiting on the County's ability to make updates independently. The new website would allow each department to manage its own changes and offer improved mobile compatibility. Commissioner McLure questioned why a change was necessary, but Sarah explained the limitations of the current site. There was also discussion on potential costs, with Sarah outlining an initial setup fee of \$7,000 and an annual fee of \$5,772, which could be covered by PILT and county building funds. Additional features, such as job modules, live training, and payment integrations for taxes or DMV, were also mentioned as some are needed for certain departments. Commissioner McLure moved to proceed with the premium plan, and the initial cost would be covered by PILT and the County building fund. Commissioners agreed to continue the process, gathering feedback from all departments and addressing any questions they may have. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MEETING WITH FOREST SERVICE'S DISTRICT RANGER, CAMERON RASOR; LAKESHORE DRIVE AND OTHER ROADS, POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS WITH USFS. Cameron Rasor and Georgetown Lake homeowners' Chuck Stokke, Brian Clarke, Dan Villa, Ed McLean (retired judge), and Mike Hayes discussed several issues related to the maintenance of Lakeshore Drive. Cameron Rasor explained the situation regarding a 5-year cooperative forest road agreement between the Forest Service and Granite County, and there is a yearly road maintenance plan that is changed and renewed annually. He clarified that the 5- year master agreement remains in effect, but the yearly maintenance plan needs**

to be worked and decided upon this spring. It was brought up to potentially look at a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and Forest Service for maintenance and plowing of Lakeshore Drive, though Rasor indicated he lacked the authority to enter into such an agreement. Concerns were raised about limited resources, particularly with the Forest Service and the county's road crew being understaffed. Commissioner McLure emphasized the need for cooperation and suggested matching labor and materials for road improvements. The idea of using PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funding to support road work was also discussed, although PILT funds are not guaranteed on an annual basis. A proposal was made to use county resources to totally reconstruct (new base material and gravel) a section of Lakeshore Drive, with estimates ranging from \$60,000 to \$70,000 (per Chuck Stokke's estimates) for a mile of road work. The group acknowledged that the current budget is insufficient to fully restore the road, with hopes to increase funding through grant funding and other funding. Commissioner McLure mentioned that the county should continue collaborating with the Forest Service and residents to bring the road up to specs and avoid the conflicts faced last year. Ed McLain via conference line highlighted the need for a mutual agreement with Deer Lodge County and sought a cost estimate for the graveling project. There was also a discussion about drainage issues, culverts, and runoff management. Overall, the group recognized the need for increased funding and improved coordination among the county, the Forest Service, and residents to enhance Lakeshore Drive over the next five years.

**WORKING MEETING ON COUNTY ROAD CREW TRAINING AND SAFETY POLICIES;** Jackie Bolster joined the meeting, where Commissioner Adler discussed expectations for skills and safety. Jackie Bolster raised a question about the PPE policy and whether it should be included in the handbook or be separate. Blaine suggested it be separate. Jackie noted that different departments had separate policy books in her previous employment. Commissioner Adler clarified that the focus was on solid waste and road crew. Commissioner McLure mentioned that the road crew needs special training and operational checks, which haven't been done yet. She presented a detailed printout on safety and equipment checks that could apply to both solid waste and road crews. Jackie emphasized the need for pre-trip sheets and follow-up, and Blaine Bradshaw suggested reaching out to Missoula County to obtain their relevant policies and forms. A checklist was discussed, and the idea of tracking training hours was raised. A road crew job description will be issued, and the necessary policies must be signed. The need for more hard hats for different locations was also mentioned. Commissioner Kulaski moved to place an ad for a road position, which was seconded by Commissioner McLure, and the motion passed unanimously.

**OAC MEETING WITH TCS NORTHWEST REGARDING COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR/BATHROOM PROJECT;** Ryon Covington and Brook Covington from TCS Northwest, along with Scott Cromwell, architect from Slate Architect, provided an update on the elevator and bathroom projects. Ryon shared that the first batch of concrete for the elevator pit has been poured, with completion expected in a couple of weeks. They are waiting for new trim that was custom made. They have some old trim that was salvaged for the

**courthouse as well. Work on staining and sealing will be done at their shop. A change order is being submitted for a sub pump in the elevator pit for precautionary measures.**

**Otis (elevator company) has been on-site intermittently and is scheduled to begin elevator installation work on March 24th, moving tools and starting the preliminary schedule. They expect the elevator installation work to take 2–3 months, and once completed, the floors will be cut. Due to the high cost of shutting down the work (around \$5k per day), noise during the project cannot be controlled. There was also a discussion regarding the tile bid, where wall tiling costs were initially missed by tile subcontractor in the bidding (error on TCS), but leading to a proposed change order to cover these additional expenses. Ryon Covington hopes the County will meet halfway which is covered in the proposed change order. Commissioner Adler acknowledged the project's large scale and said it needs to be done. Commissioner McLure moved to accept the potential change order and put it on the agenda for next week. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Adler adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.**