

**September 2, 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, Commissioner McLure, and Commissioner Kulaski. Commissioner Adler was excused from this meeting. Also attending were Commissioners' Assistant Maranda Williams and Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, who participated in 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 phone on zoom, Luke Ulatowski, A. Tobin.**

**Commissioner Adler requested that microphones and videos be enabled for Zoom attendees who wish to make public comments during the meeting.**

**AUGUST 19, 2025 MINUTES AND QUESTIONS FROM JUSTINE RICHMOND; The commissioners invited Justine to the meeting to address recent concerns. She could not attend. Commissioner McLure concurs with Justine that the term loud and elevated voice is an opinion. Arbitrary and targeted comments about Elena and Jackie Butler comments were brought up, and Commissioner McLure said the minutes are supposed to focus on the agenda items and the decisions made. Hearsay from the public shouldn't be in the minutes. Reiterating the old policy (cameras on to make public comment on zoom) can be taken out, Commissioner McLure agrees with her on that. Regarding the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Minutes, Commissioner Kulaski moved to make the corrections to the minutes. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.**

**BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner McLure said in the public comment portion that the minutes were jumping back and forth and needed clarification. To accept the board minutes for August 26, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski moved to approve the minutes with those changes. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. No public comment was received, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE;**

**Electronic mail was received from Matthew Clark requesting a speed limit reduction: 4-mile stretch in Helmville Canyon be reduced to 55 mph. This will be an agenda item next week.**

**Electronic mail was received from Jim Bacquet asking for his email to be read during public comment.**

**An electronic mail was received from Justin Richmond, who was unable to attend the meeting but had some comments that will be read during public comment.**

**An electronic mail was received from Deb Robinson about a tabletop on Measles part II, September 3rd, from 9-12.**

Mail was received from the 5 Valley Lands Trust, a message from the board president with the 2024 annual report.

An electronic mail was received from Ed Simonich, who submitted a letter to the commission/staff, and had a copy of the letter. He wrote a letter to FERC, complaining against Granite County regarding reservoir elevation.

Electronic mail was received from FERC with a follow-up from the dam safety inspection.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Joe DeMico, a part-time resident originally from Washington State, expressed appreciation for the community's character and urged against making changes. He values the small-town feel, including features like the dirt road to the courthouse and the ease of accessing local resources. He voiced concerns that trails, such as a proposed one from Drummond, could increase crime. He praised the sheriff's department for their work despite limited resources and offered his support. Overall, he emphasized maintaining the status quo and expressed gratitude for having a home in the area.

Commissioner McLure read Jim Bacquet's email, apologized for saying "what goes around comes around," and emphasized the board's authority to make rules and policies. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw affirmed Bacquet's right to participate, noting litigation is a civil alternative to violence, but called the Bacquets hypocritical for quickly suing over the Browns Gulch Road issue without prior discussion. He added that frustration comes more from disruptions than from genuine public outcry.

Commissioner McLure reviewed Justine Richmond's email, with Blaine Bradshaw agreeing it was fine for her to miss the meeting. The AI-generated Zoom summary was noted as having inaccuracies but could be amended for the minutes. Commissioner Kulaski clarified that calls are allowed via the conference line during public comment, so it's incorrect to say calling isn't permitted. Elena was identified as engaging in harassment and disruption, not merely exercising rights, and was suspended for 30 days. Commissioner McLure emphasized that while people aren't being restricted, repeated disruptive behavior cannot continue weekly, and all comments have been noted.

**ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT;** Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt reported that work is currently underway on East Fork. A \$2,500 bill was given to Sarah to pass on to Jason from Blackfoot. The cost for work on the Drummond road is unknown until core samples are taken to assess the subgrade, and further action depends on those results. If the subgrade is poor, graders with smooth tires will be needed. Reclaiming the road will improve conditions but won't be like paving, and chip sealing may follow at about \$20,000 per mile. Lakeshore has been bladed and magged, with additional asphalt work, including Durapatch and potholes, still to be done. Salt is expected in the third week of September. Bus routes were discussed, with no Black Pine Route planned and Rock Creek remaining active. Additionally, someone requested four or five jersey rails.

**SOLID WASTE DISTRICTS WEEKLY UPDATES FROM PHILIPSBURG AND DRUMMOND LOCATIONS;** Todd Bahsteter and John Kendall submitted their reports

for the commissioner. Todd said they are busy, the new hire is trained and scheduled to work on 9/2. After meeting with Mr. Bradshaw once he gets back to me with updated paperwork will sign the new job description. New dumpster for the town sewer; the county will not be involved in this, and questions should be directed to Ed Roseboom.

John Kendall from the Drummond solid waste department cleaned up the compactor, cleaned the burn pile, and fixed the backhoe. Put things in the new compactor. Joy raked around the site. Fred came to work at two and waited on people. Timecard completed and compacted.

**GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDERS REPORT;** According to the USGS lake level gauge and the dam tender's report for the week, the lake level was reported at 6428.25 feet, 15 inches below full pool. Commissioner Kulaski moved to stay at 30 CFS. Commissioner McLure seconded. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

**FIRE RESTRICTION UPDATE; VARIANCE REQUESTS;** Commissioner Kulaski moved to go to Stage 1. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

**JOB DESCRIPTION UPDATE AND RE-GRADING SOLID WASTE CLERK;** Ashley Todd and Scott Rettig joined the commissioners to review updates. Scott's job description was updated to reflect licensing, registering, and permitting duties, along with accountability and performance. Compensable factors were discussed, and it was noted that a Grade 8 entry exceeds his current level and anniversary steps. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the reclassification of the Solid Waste Clerk to Grade 8, at the entry-level position. Commissioner McLure seconded the approval of the Grade 8 entry, effective July 1, retroactive for the fiscal year, with the anniversary date also adjusted to July 1. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Kulaski moved to approve the updated job description for the Solid Waste Clerk. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comments were received. The motion passed unanimously.

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AGREEMENT FOR HALL SCHOOL SERVICES;** Superintendent Ashley Todd made note to Commissioner Kulaski that the county superintendent position the role requires an administrative degree, which she does not have. Instead, the county has contracted Bridgette Perry for the past few years as a part-time, short-term employee under an annual agreement. Perry receives hourly pay for 175 hours, with COLA increases, work comp, unemployment benefits, and teacher retirement contributions, but no vacation days. Her duties include increased reporting due to homeschooling growth. Commissioners Kulaski moved to and McLure moved to approve the agreement. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2025-12: A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE METHOD OF LEVYING VOTED MILLS PER 2025 ADOPTED MONTANA HOUSE BILLS 231 & 542;** Sarah Graham talked with Valley Fire and they wanted to change it to

the option 1 instead of 2. Use the formula in the statute. This will now be the First reading on that. Last resolution, they had option 2, but they wanted option 1. They thought it was better for them.

**LETTER REQUESTING MT DOT TO INSTALL A REDUCE SPEED AHEAD SIGN ON MARSHALL CREEK ROAD;** Commissioner Kulaski moved to send the letter to MDOT. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

**CIVIC PLUS; POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL WORK ORDER FOR AGENDA TEMPLATE MAKER AND DRAFTING MINUTES;** Commissioner Kulaski moved to not accept the work order for the agenda template and drafting minutes from Civic Plus. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

**BLACKFOOT COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:** Blaine Bradshaw said they were talking to Commissioner Adler after the rain, and that they would be able to work with Stage II as long as they have water tanks, they wouldn't be prosecuted. They are good with stage 1 Jason Robertson, if they go to stage II, suggesting that they could be exempt, if they have water tanks.

**GRANITE COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR 25-26 BUDGET HEARING;** County Treasurer Ashley Todd brought in the budget reports for the Philipsburg Schools, Hall Elementary, Drummond Schools. No public comments were received regarding the budget.

**DECISION ON COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR 25-26 BUDGET;** Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the levies for Fiscal Year 25-26. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2025-11: A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION SETTING GRANITE COUNTY'S ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPUTIES, AND A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR CERTAIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES; FIRST READING;** No public comment was made.

Commissioner McLure adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.