

April 8, 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 who wish to speak during the meeting.

BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner McLure moved to accept the board minutes for April 1, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Electronic mail was received from TCS Northwest with a pay application #13 for \$55,492.68.

Mail was received from the Town of Philipsburg with the appointment of Planning Board Member Lauren Robbins as the Town's Representative on the County Planning Board.

An electronic mail was received from Justice Court March Disbursement detailing a \$3,824.16 payment.

Mail was received from the MT Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) with instructions for Service Provider County Designation Forms.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano on an article in the Daily Montanan. Our representative (John Fitzpatrick) uses heavy-handed tactics to get people to go his way. If you don't show up, you are going to lose your grant or money. She said it's a good article and recommended that the Commission read it.

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, starting to blade roads, and did East Fork yesterday. It rained last night, and it's too wet right now. The lower end of Rock Creek Road is pretty wet still. Cold patching is starting and have some done, but it needs more. Gravel up Stewart Lake Road and Browns Gulch was brought up from prior phone calls to the Commissioners. After discussing gravel needs later today, Paul Alt will get hold of Jeff Abbott to see what they can do about gravel on Stewart Lake Road (one historically boggy section). Commissioner Kulaski said it's a vast bog hole that's been there forever. A discussion was held about widening Willow Creek Road in the future, as it's pretty narrow in spots.

SOLID WASTE; Backhoe was fixed and is running. Ashley Todd joined the Commissioners for this portion of the meeting. Scott Rettig is getting ready to bill for outside of Granite Disposal overages. Ashley Todd is here to request a minimum for him to bill – the current bills are at \$4.05 for 15 people and \$5.40 for 25 people. Commissioner McLure moved for solid waste overages to be a minimum of \$5.50 and anything under not billed and waived. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received, and the motion passed unanimously. Blaine Bradshaw stated that he got subpoenaed to testify in a public hearing before the Montana Public Service Commission regarding Grizzly Disposal's current application for permitting in Granite County. He spoke about past meetings with the Republic Services, and there was no room to amend the 5-year plan. Blaine Bradshaw said it should be a free market as there is no competition now to Republic Services for hauling roll-offs (large garbage bins) in Granite County. Paul Alt had a question on the Road and Solid Waste safety papers to sign. The Commission said to have them sign again, those were PPE policies and the updated safety and training policy needs looked at and printed for Road and Solid Waste to review with their suggestions.

GRAVEL BIDS AWARDED BASED UPON GEOGRAPHICAL NEEDS IN THE COUNTY; Commissioner Kulaski moved to receive 10,000 yards to Bob Weaver Construction, 2,500 yards for T3 Rock Products LLC, and 2,500 yards for 348 Gravel Co (as this is this provides the best priced gravel based upon geographical need for it in the County) with the option to get more from all companies in the next few months. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously. Paul Alt said got a roller rented 1st of May for gravel needs once they start laying it down.

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 6428.85 feet, 7.08 inches below full pool. Commissioner Kulaski moved to proceed to 20 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. Blaine Bradshaw said Paul Tallon just told him that the USGS was showing outflows at 22 CFS but he adjusted that back hopefully to 20 CFS (it is work to fine tune the outflow adjustment). Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. No public received. The motion passed unanimously.

PHILIPSBURG YOUTH ATHLETIC CLUB'S CLEANUP PROJECT REQUESTING COUNTY ASSISTANCE WITH LINDA GRAHAM; Linda Graham updated the Commissioners about the donated cans that generate funds for PYAC through the Forest Service, which collects and sells the cans. The PYAC donation bin is located on County property on the other side of the school hill in Philipsburg at 601 West Street. She mentioned that the fence at the PYAC's bin site (on County property) is in poor condition and proposed PYAC installing a chain-link fence with a 4-foot gate to make it easier to throw cans over and clean up. She also suggested adding gravel inside the area, particularly at the east side of the County's building on West Street that is just west of the Philipsburg Schools. Commissioner Kulaski noted that it can get muddy, and Commissioner Adler suggested contacting Paul Alt for gravel and equipment. Linda Graham had spoken with Paul Alt,

who agreed it would be okay, and she would coordinate with him to get road crew help. Linda emphasized the importance of this for the summer programs. Commissioner McLure moved to approve the gravel (County to provide gravel and work) and fence project (PYAC to provide materials and labor) on the County property (PYAC bin site), and Commissioner Kulaski seconded. There was no public comment, and the motion passed unanimously.

GRANT APPLICATION PROPOSAL THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY-LEVEL MENTAL HEALTH PREVENTION/INTERVENTION WITH KAYLA SANDERS WITH HEALTHY GRANITE COUNTY NETWORK (HGCN); Kayla Sanders (Board member of HGCN) and Jen Graham (President of HGCN) met with the Commissioners to discuss a grant opportunity the organization they work with, Healthy Granite County Network (local non-profit). The grant would be administered through the county, with Jen, a licensed clinical professional, leading efforts in training, school programs, prevention, and resource coordination. The focus would be on addressing the specific needs of Granite County, while also exploring potential Tri-County collaborations. The grant is part of a statewide initiative with eight other counties participating to share ideas and strategies. The funding is \$250,000 over two years, with 25% allocated to the state for consulting. The project aims to be sustainable long-term, enhancing existing programs and strengthening partnerships within the community.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano stating that the money isn't coming from federal grants; it's coming from the state. She asked for a list of the grants, but Kayla Sanders responded this is the only one they are working on now. Elena asked where the state is getting the money. Elena Gagliano thinks the state gets the money from one of Governor Gianforte's programs and mentioned how this is his baby, and some out of the state budget. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the letter of support for the grant for Public Health. Commissioner McLure seconded it. No public comments were received, and the motion passed unanimously.

Elena Gagliano had another comment: Gov. Gianforte signed on, so unlock it's two years up to a million dollars, a mix of state and federal dollars, and good job if you get it.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR TOWN OF PHILIPSBURG FOR CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING PROJECT; The County did a letter of support for the Town of Philipsburg for the Congressionally Directed Spending requesting funds for its Fred Burr water line project. Commissioner McLure moved to approve the letter of support for the Town of Philipsburg. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

GRANITE COUNTY DUI TASKFORCE CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT OPERATING PLAN; Update on the financial report for the DUI Task Force and letter from Sheriff Scott Dunkerson. Commissioner McLure explained the budget report to Commissioner Kulaski. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the financial report from the DUI Task Force. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received, and the motion passed unanimously.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MT DOJ AND THE COUNTY RE; THE MOTOR VEHICLE SYSTEM; The County Treasurer, Ashley Todd, met with the Commissioners to discuss a newly proposed interlocal agreement with the State (MT Department of Justice), which is significantly different from previous agreements. The State's responsibilities are limited to five bullet points, while the county's obligations span 2.5 pages, covering all costs like equipment, paper, toner, postage, and supplies. Ashley Todd (County Treasurer) explained that the county currently receives limited reimbursement from the State for registration services and one includes a \$5 per license plate (excluding standard plates) but gets no funding for postage. Additionally, IT responsibilities, including computers and equipment, have shifted from the state to the county, increasing local costs. A 3-year replacement schedule shows expenses for computers (\$1200), scanners (\$950), printers (\$369), and other supplies. The anticipated cost for the county is around \$11,000-\$12,000. Ashley noted that only three out of 56 counties have signed the agreement so far, as many are pushing back. There was discussion about negotiating further with the state and possibly revisiting a county option tax to offset these costs. Commissioners expressed concerns about the County bearing most of the costs while the state benefits. Ashley Todd said this was all basically just sprung on the Montana Counties by the Montana Department of Justice. Discussed a line item in the budget going forward. Computers are in the general county building fund. So, the computers that rotate out would be through that fund. Supplies etc., would have to be out of the Treasurer's office, Commissioner McLure said. Commissioner McLure moved to proceed with the memorandum of understanding approach, but to continue to attempt to negotiate better terms before signing. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No Public comments were received and the motion passed unanimously.

GREAT WEST DAM DISCUSSION; Jeremiah Theys joined the Commissioners for this portion of the meeting to discuss the DSSMR report and more. Four control points on the dam were monitored; one point had minor movement (.04 ft). The Operations & Maintenance Manual has been updated, including contact information, project logs, survey procedures, and piezometer reporting. FERC inspection raised concerns about a wall on the dam — monitoring procedures were updated accordingly. Emergency Action Plan updated per FERC comments. The Comprehensive Assessment Plan will involve divers and remote methods to check the dam's steel thickness. The Part 12D inspection is completed every 5 years, and an annual walkthrough inspection is required. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept all documents with the accompany letters of transfer to FERC. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. No public comment was received, and the motion passed unanimously. The cost of future inspections (Part 12D every 5 years) is unknown but expected to be high. Proposals for the Comprehensive Assessment are due May 13th. Final report to FERC is due December 31, 2026. Commissioner Kulaski moved to approve Great West getting proposals for the Comprehensive Assessment, and Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously. The assessment is eligible for up to \$75,000 from a Reclamation Development Grant (requires 1 to 1 match potentially) to help fund the Part 12D Comprehensive Assessment due in December 2026. Commissioner Kulaski moved to have Great West apply for the Reclamation Development Grant. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was

received. The motion passed unanimously. The Bridge Project in Drummond (previously approved for requesting bids) was discussed and the concrete rail replacement project was estimated under \$80,000. Need to solicit bids from at least three contractors. The project involves removing rail posts (excluding curved section), hydro jetting, exposing reinforcement, and pouring new concrete. Contractors must have \$2M liability insurance but no performance bond is required due to project size. Commissioners aim to complete the project soon due to concerns about contractor availability. Notice will be given on the request for bids.

INTERNAL INTERVIEWS; Commissioner McLure recused herself from the interviews for a conflict of interest with an interviewee.

Commissioner Kulaski moved to send a letter to keep 2 applicants in the pool and open up the Custodian Job to the public with notice being published in the newspaper. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously. Blaine Bradshaw was invited to be on the committee but did not have a vote.

Commissioner Adler adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.