

October 24, 2023

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 Chairperson Adler, Commissioner McLure and Commissioner Hinkle attending. Also attending were Commissioner's Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski, Clerk, Brandi Galiher, and Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw, who attended a portion of the agenda items. The session was livestreamed through the Zoom internet-based program available for the public to view the session and 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 *Philipsburg Mail* Editor, Amelia Wood; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Granite County Treasurer, Vicki Harding; Granite Road Resident, James Prusa; Georgetown Lake Resident, Michael Comba; Granite County Solid Waste Clerk, Scott Rettig; Town of Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper; Owner Operator of Maps Inc., Matt Pearce; Granite County Custodian, Janeen Bonney; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; Granite County District Court Clerk, Carol Bohrnsen; Granite County Extension Office Secretary Karen Palmer; Granite County Planning Director, Linda Bouck; and members of the general public including Elena Gagliano, Jim & Carol Bacquet, Stacey McKinley, Jim Waldbillig, Dave Harris, Joseph Houston, and Josh Margolis.

BOARD MINUTES; The Commission tabled this item until later in the session to ensure they could take some extra time to review and read the minutes from the last session.

Commissioner McLure moved to accept the board minutes for October 10, 2023. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

A copy of the inaugural annual report of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA) was received with a letter from BSPRA Chairman, David Strohmaier.

An invitation to the "Unpacking Montana's Natural Resources – The Future is Here" Conference was received. This will take place in Butte, MT on October 26-27th.

Electronic mail was received from Elena Gagliano asking for a response to her letter from September 15, 2023. Attorney Bradshaw commented that the Commissioners have real work to do as opposed to quarreling with Elena Gagliano. Commissioner McLure noted that she would like to respond to incorrect allegations in the September 15, 2023 letter. This matter will be an upcoming Commissioners agenda (October 31, 2023).

A letter was received from FERC, granting the County an extension on the Revised Deterministic Seismic Hazard Analysis Report Submittal; which is now due by June 30, 2024.

A notice was received from Tim Hilmo for a 10-acre expansion of an existing gravel pit operation located at 65 Lower Sunny Meadow Lane, Philipsburg.

Electronic mail was received from Jeff Faulhaber concerning a stump that was left in the city right-of-way following the removal of a dead choke cherry tree. The Town of Philipsburg is refusing to remove the stump which is near the west side of the Courthouse. The Commission agreed that this is a matter for the Town of Philipsburg to deal with.

A notice of public hearing on the proposed adoption and amendment in the matter of New Rule I and New Rule II and the amendment of ARM before the Department of Environmental Quality was received.

A notice of MACo Committee seats available was received. Commissioners interested in serving on a committee need to submit their information before November 3, 2023.

A DEQ notice was received: The reopening of Public Notice No. MT-23-08; Par Montana, LLC; Permit Number: MT0000477.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was received from Jim Bacquet asking if Commissioner McLure made a comment when she was holding up a document in front of her, as it was inaudible. Commissioner McLure responded that she was reviewing the document and that there was not a comment made.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt joined the Commission to provide an update on Road & Bridge and Solid Waste operations across the County. He explained that the Crew has been working on wrapping up blading projects ahead of the weather turning. The Crew does have a few more roads to complete cold patch projects on, and then Paul Alt will order 30 tons of the winter mix so it can be utilized during the cold weather. There is blading work that has been wrapped up for the season on East Fork Road, Paul Alt noted that this is as good as it will get on East Fork Road for the season.

Commissioner McLure asked for a gravel report for the season, wanting to know which roads received gravel and how many loads of gravel each road received. Paul Alt responded that he would have this report prepared for the next meeting. Commissioner Hinkle inquired about the 700 yards of gravel that was sold to the US Forest Service, and has not been paid for yet. Paul Alt explained that they are not done hauling the gravel, but that the Road Department has pulled their loader, so the Forest Service will have to be done now, and he will send them a bill. He stated that the USFS has taken about 600 yards of gravel from the Middle Fork Gravel Pit, and that they will be calling into the Treasurer's Office to pay with a credit card.

Commissioner Hinkle commented on an email that was sent to Commissioner Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski from the USFS in response to an inquiry about applying for a RAC Grant to complete work on Lakeshore Road. Commissioner Hinkle stated that the email says the County pulled out of the FLAP Grant, but that he wanted to clarify that he believes the County was advised to pull out by the Forest Service because of concerns over the matching

funds. The group had further discussion over the maintenance needs on Lakeshore Road and the necessity for homeowners to reach out directly to the USFS to voice their concerns. Commissioner Hinkle noted that the USFS expects the County to maintain Lakeshore Road, but that they don't want to give the County any RAC funds to support the effort. Billie Ann Kulaski added that she is expecting to speak with the USFS this week concerning an application for RAC funds to support maintenance efforts and will provide an update. This matter will be on the Commissioners upcoming agenda (October 31, 2023).

Solid Waste Update: Paul Alt told the Commission that the well has been drilled at the Philipsburg Solid Waste Site.

Town of Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper shared information about the bridge project on South Main in Drummond. The Town of Drummond was awarded \$190K to replace the bridge on South Main prior to the determination that the County is responsible for the maintenance of that section of road as well as the bridge. She explained that the Town has been trying to work with the Department of Commerce over the past 3-4 months to pass the money through to the County for the bridge, but that they have not been able to get a response. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw suggested reaching out to Representative, John Fitzpatrick to put some pressure on the Department of Commerce for a response. Mayor Leeper explained that Representative Fitzpatrick lobbied for the Town of Drummond to received this money for the bridge infrastructure. She added that according to the MT Department of Transportation Bridge Inspection Report that this bridge does not need immediate attention, and she is just wanting to know what the Commission is wanting to do at this point. This matter will be an agenda item during the next session (October 31, 2023).

Attorney Bradshaw commented that Northwestern Energy has completed some work in which they dug up the asphalt in the alleyway south of the Courthouse, and asked if the Commission wanted the Road Crew to clean up the asphalt, and then invoice Northwestern Energy. The Commission would like to have the Town of Philipsburg complete the repair work since it is in their jurisdiction.

JAMES PRUSA WITH GRANITE PROPERTY OWNERS REQUESTING A ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT; The Commission was joined by James Prusa with the Granite Property Owners to discuss a potential road maintenance agreement. James Prusa had joined the Commissioners two weeks earlier and explained that the residents would like to be authorized to complete maintenance including keeping ditch lines and culverts clear as well as snowplowing. The group has utilized the model Road Maintenance Agreement the County uses, and customized it to the type of maintenance the residents would like to complete. Commissioner Adler raised concerns over the amount of people working on the roadway. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw commented that in some of the email correspondence James Prusa stated there would just be a few of them who are trained equipment operators, and that they would need to carry the required liability insurance (naming Granite County as additional insured). Commissioner Hinkle commented that he is not in favor of this, because there is too high of a likelihood of something going wrong. He

added that he doesn't agree with having private residents complete work (i.e. snowplowing) on County roadways, and that the County should start doing this road. Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt responded that the County does routine maintenance (i.e. blading) on this road once a year, if it is needed, but to plow it during the winter would make it a death trap. He elaborated, explaining that if it were to be plowed people will use it more often and someone will get killed on it. Commissioner Hinkle added that this will happen if private residents are plowing the road as well. Paul Alt clarified that he is thinking that tourists will travel the roadway more often if the County is plowing it, and that they will not know what to expect on the road. James Prusa, commented that he has three little kids and that there are residents living off of the road, adding that they would like to be able to plow the road so they have access. The group had further discussion over the Road Maintenance Agreements and the County's policy concerning agreements. Attorney Bradshaw recommended that the County keep these agreements to a one-year length, enabling the County to not renew agreements that are not working; as well as to only make agreements with those who have the right credentials, ensuring people are properly trained with the right equipment; in addition to ensuring the insurance requirements align with the agreement.

Commissioner Adler raised concern over the Road Crew being able to support maintenance and regular plowing on Granite Road. Commissioner McLure clarified that the residents are also concerned over the ability of the Road Crew to regularly tend to Granite Road, which is why they have proposed the agreement and have the credentials and insurance required. The Commission discussed the condition of Granite Road and concerns over the road turning into ice during the winter months; which highlighted Commissioner Hinkle's concerns over the County not completing the plowing and sanding of the roadway. After further discussion the County agreed to see how things go under the proposed agreement. Attorney Bradshaw noted that this agreement is a one-year agreement, but it will automatically renew year after year annually up to four times unless written notice is given, so if the Commission does not want to renew the agreement they will need to reach out to the Granite Property Owners in writing.

Commissioner McLure motioned to approve the annual Road Maintenance Agreement with the Granite Property Owners. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

MICHAEL COMBA TO DISCUSS HILLTOP LANE; The Commission was joined in a previous week's session by Michael Comba who lives at the end of Hilltop Lane at Georgetown Lake. He explained that he had applied for a permit from the USFS to put in his own road, but was denied because the Forest Service stated there was already access through a private or public road. The residents on Hilltop Lane would like to run the road like an HOA and gate access, but that the Forest Service has told them they cannot because Hilltop Lane is a County Road. He had told the Commission that he was in possession of documentation stating Hilltop Lane was a County Road, which he had received from the County when he purchased his property. The Commission requested copies of that documentation previous to this session. Michael Comba provided documentation that was forwarded to the County Planning Director to review. Granite County Planning Director,

Linda Bouck joined the session, explaining she reviewed the documents, and that the County has not made any concessions in any of the documentation that Hilltop Lane is a County Road. She added that she spoke with Michael Comba previous to him purchasing his property and had a similar conversation. Linda Bouck recommended having the County Attorney send a letter to Michael Comba explaining that Hilltop Lane is not a County Road. Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw added that researching MCA 7-14-2101(2)(d), that a resolution of adoption of Hilltop Lane as a County Road would be required, and that is not something the County has ever done. He added that any maintenance performed on the roadway is not sufficient. Commissioner McLure confirmed that the County has no plans for a resolution to adopt Hilltop Lane as a County Road. Commissioner McLure then motioned to have the County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw write a letter explaining to Michael Comba that Hilltop Lane is not a County Road. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received, and the motion passed unanimously.

After the agenda item Michael Comba joined the session, and Commissioner Adler explained the motion. Michael Comba clarified that the whole of Hilltop Lane is going to be considered not a County Road, adding that he wants documentation, because the residents want to move forward and form an Association. Attorney Bradshaw responded that he will be sending a letter to Michael Comba quoting MCA 7-4-2101.

REVIEW OF GRANITE COUNTY'S GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY; The Commission reviewed Resolution 2017-20; the Good Neighbor Policy. Commissioner Hinkle referenced the need for defining what qualifies as an emergency and the need to get everyone on the same page. He explained that he defines an emergency as the need for fire, police, EMS; and there is a difference between an emergency and a hardship. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw explained the language within the resolution and how it addresses an undo hardship versus an emergency. He added that the policy states that if a private entity can plow the snow, that they need to, and that the County would not in those instances. The Commission discussed building a list of private contractors that provide services in the County and making it available in their office as well as on the County website. Attorney Bradshaw added that the policy does require that once it is exercised to be discussed at the following Commissioners Meeting to be reflected in the meeting minutes. Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt added that someone's negligence does not necessarily make something an emergency. Granite County Planning Director, Linda Bouck asked for clarification of the policy (is it just for private lanes or is it for driveways?). Attorney Bradshaw responded that there is language in the policy making it available for a wide range of instances, it could be used for private lanes, driveways, or even to plow the football field. The group discussed reasonable remedies to situations, after further discussion on the parameters of the current policy in place the Commission agreed that they are comfortable with the policy as written.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking about a situation she once experienced on her road, John Long Rd. off of Black Pine Rd. She stated that there was a time an ambulance could not come down the road and she questioned that if in an emergency the Good Neighbor Policy would kick in, and she was told yes. Attorney Bradshaw stated

that this is generally correct, and explained how the undue hardship language in the Good Neighbor Policy would actually work in practical terms.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6428.80 feet; 8.4 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner Adler provided a brief update on the work that has been completed up at the dam including the installation of new gates. He added that the Road Crew needs to put a load of gravel up around the parking area where the sand has been washing out along the hillside, as well as have them tighten the buoys. He reached out to Paul Alt via the phone concerning the outstanding items. The group discussed the management of the water into the spring. Commissioner Hinkle moved to decrease the outflow to 10 CFS; as this is required and consistent with the FERC order in place. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There were no public comments received, and the motion passed unanimously.

GRANITE COUNTY TREASURER VICKI HARDING TO PRESENT MONTHLY CASH REPORTS; The Commission was joined by Granite County Treasurer, Vicki Harding, who presented the cash reports and pledged securities from March through August 2023. The Commission reviewed and discussed the reports. There were no public comments received

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER; The Commission went into Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The Commission came out of closed session to announce that when Granite County Treasurer, Vicki Harding retires this spring her Deputy does not want to be appointed to the Treasurer position. This means the Commission will need to appoint someone to this role once Vicki Harding retires. The Commission has decided to open the appointment up not only internally, but to the public and accept resumes for the interim Treasurer position to be appointed from the date of Vicki Harding's retirement until the general election results for the Treasurer's position is certified in 2024. This person will then, if they want to continue in the role, have to file to run for the position in the 2024 Primary Election and go on to win in the General Election. The announcement of accepting resumes for appointment of Granite County Treasurer will be on the upcoming Commissioners Agenda. (October 31, 2023).

MONTHLY CLAIMS: Commissioner McLure moved to accept the monthly claims for September 2023. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

FINAL DECISION REGARDING BACQUET V. GRANITE COUNTY; Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw explained that the trial Bacquet V. Granite County took place last week, and Judge Dayton met with the parties halfway through to discuss a settlement, which the parties agreed to. Commissioner McLure motioned to accept the judgementa that were made on October 17, 2023 in the District Court Case Bacquet V. Granite County. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Carol Bacquet asking for clarification on the motion and if the County could elaborate on the

judgement. Attorney Bradshaw clarified that the judgement was entered in the favor of Bacquet and that the road in question (Tungsten Lane) is a private road. He added that in an upcoming agenda item, the County is going to discuss doing some petitions for County Roads, but that this will not include Tungsten Lane. There were no further public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

CREATING A PRELIMINARY MAP AND SURVEYING OF TOWER ROAD AND BROWN'S GULCH ROAD CONNECTING TO STEWART LAKE ROAD THROUGH ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC ROAD (NOT TUNGSTEN LANE); Matt Pearce of Maps, Inc. joined the Commission and walked through a presentation via G.I.S. software that maps four roads connecting to Stewart Lake Road, that the County is considering beginning the process to work with local landowners who would petition for these roads to be established as County Roads. These roads include Brown's Gulch (Not Tungsten Lane), Cliff Gulch, Algonquin Mine, Tower, and Boarding House Flats. Local resident, Dave Harris walked the Commission through a portion of the map stating he and other members of the public doesn't see a reason for the County to include Boarding House Flats as part of this petition as there is no current roadway that actually intersects with Stewart Lake Road, but that the other roads will protect access for future generations. Local resident and property owner, Bill Antonioli was also contacted and does not see a need for including Boarding House Flats. Matt Peace noted that a different road he had originally called Middle Gulch Road, is actually Cliff Gulch Road based off of historic records that has been provided to him via the County. He also discussed how the petition process would work and how his software program has pulled all of the property owners who are connected to these roadways and organized their information into an Excel spreadsheet with mailing addresses. Jim Waldbillig didn't think Boarding House Flats Road needed to be a petitioned county road either and he voiced support for all of the property owners being contacted and their responses being recorded.

Public comment was received from Jim Bacquet asking why the public is wanting to remove Boarding House Flats from the petition, clarifying whether or not this can still be used as a public road. Attorney Bradshaw responded that this is still a public road but is not being included in the petition based off the request of the public. Carol Bacquet interjected stating they want to ensure that Boarding House Flats is not declared private as they want to make sure they can still use it. Jim Waldbillig commented on the status of Tungsten Lane being a private lane. Attorney Bradshaw clarified that in his preliminary opinion Boardinghouse Flats Road is a public road, and that the County wants to move forward getting along and being neighborly with the Bacquets. Commissioner McLure moved to begin the petition process for Brown's Gulch (Not Tungsten Lane), Tower, Cliff Gulch, and Algonquin Mine Road(s), by sending notices to all of the adjacent property owners to see if they object or consent with Matt Pearce assisting the County in this notice process. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if this would be publicly noticed and if there would be a formal resolution. Attorney Bradshaw explained that there will be a notice of a public hearing that will be in the newspaper, followed by a public hearing and formal resolution, and survey; adding that this is the beginning of the

process, which is why only the adjacent property owners will be contacted at this time. There were no further comments and the motion passed unanimously.

GRANITE COUNTY SOLID WASTE POLICY UPDATE; The Commission was joined by Granite County Solid Waste Clerk Scott Rettig to review his research into Granite Disposal's customer list and the integration with the County's database. Scott Rettig explained that Granite Disposal has a customer list of 748 customers, and he has made it through the majority of the list, noting that he has matched 611 with tax ID numbers. Some of these accounts (3-5%) don't have any units associated with them, because there is not a structure on the property yet. This could be because the residents are starting to build and have not finished their structure or it is not over 70% complete. Scott Rettig added that he has not found any customers that are outside of the Solid Waste District yet.

The Commission reviewed the drafted Solid Waste Policy update and Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw explained that in order for Granite Disposal customers to be part of the co-op (receive pick-up service from Granite Disposal or like garbage hauling business), then they will need to surrender their units to Granite Disposal. There was discussion over the necessity for quarterly updates from Granite Disposal inclusive of the customer list, and clarity in the policy over those using Granite Disposal needing to have been issued a dump card (having based units assessed on property tax statements). Scott Rettig explained that based off of his research that the tonnage being dumped by Granite Disposal is less than the combined units of their customer base. If their overages and the units from the customer base are not enough to cover the amount Granite Disposal is dumping, Granite Disposal will be responsible for paying the difference. Attorney Bradshaw added that in order for Granite Disposal to dump in the County Solid Waste Sites, they must be in compliance with the County policy which would include providing up to date customer lists. Scott Rettig commented that there are about 25% of Granite Disposal customers that are still going to the dump in addition to having their garbage hauled. Under the policy these customers would have to use the Pay-As-You-Go Program if they wanted to go to the dump, since they would be forfeiting their units to have their garbage hauled. Commissioner McLure noted the importance of customers understanding the policy and agreeing to terms to have Granite Disposal haul for them. Commissioner Hinkle added that they need to implement the policy and see how things work. Attorney Bradshaw will make some adjustments to the policy based on the discussion and this will be on an upcoming agenda for approval (October 31, 2023).

Attorney Bradshaw commented on the Fire Service Areas and how they have been looking for structures not being taxed as they are unknown to the County and how finding these missing structures will also benefit the Solid Waste District as well. He noted that it may be of benefit for the County to contract someone to support this effort as an independent contractor an annual or bi-annual basis.

ROUND TABLE MEETING WITH ALL GRANITE COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEADS – TIME CLOCK / TIME KEEPING POLICY UPDATE; The Commission was joined by Granite County Planning Director, Linda Bouck; Granite County Clerk of District Court, Carol Bohrnsen; Granite County Custodian, Janeen Bonney; Granite County Treasurer,

Vicki Harding; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; and Extension Office Secretary Karen Palmer. Linda Bouck began the discussion stating that initially she didn't care one way or another, but if the Departments that are Union (Solid Waste / Road & Bridge) are not going to move forward with time clocks / Bi-monthly pay, then the rest of the County shouldn't either. Commissioner McLure stated the Union does not want to open negotiations for this matter and asked if someone (i.e. the Road & Bridge Superintendent & Solid Waste Program Manager) could be directed to enter the Union employees' times into the electronic system. Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw commented that this could potentially be allowable. Commissioner McLure added that the County has already paid for the equipment. Sarah Graham explained that the biometric time clocks have been paid for and she doesn't believe that the County can get their money back. She said that it is her understanding that there was a request for the County to transition to a bi-monthly pay scale and her Office said in order to do so they needed a system to streamline things; then her Deputy, Becky Mickey looked into different types of timeclocks and methods. Janeen Bonney asked why the County purchased equipment before talking to employees. Sarah Graham responded that it was because the Commissioners okayed it. Commissioner McLure asked if this went out to Department Heads. Several of the Department Heads responded that they were not contacted about the matter. Attorney Bradshaw inquired if the County could resell the biometric timeclocks since we own them.

Commissioner McLure asked if at this point the County move forward with implementation and have the Department Head over Union Departments enter Union Employee times into the system. Vicki Harding asked why that department should be excluded. Commissioner McLure responded that they can't move forward with those departments until Union negotiations. Commissioner Hinkle commented that this needs to be put on hold for now. Linda Bouck suggested what if the time clock (punching) be eliminated and the employees simply enter their time as they do now but in an electronic format. Sarah Graham responded that this would defeat the point of the time clocks. Linda Bouck added that one of the great benefits of working for the County is the flexibility in hours, and that through this process it feels like that is being taken away a bit. She used the example of a child having a concert or game and if an employee wants to go and their work is done, they are able to go without it being a big deal. Commissioner Adler thanked Linda for her input and how it was phrased. He added that this needs to be put on the back burner but that it is likely coming at some point.

There was further discussion over the utilization of time clocks and how phones could be used to clock in / out, or what options are available. Carol Bohrnsen commented that she doesn't want this to feel like babysitting her employee. Sarah Graham responded that the software could be tweaked to works specifically for each department. Carol Bohrnsen asked what the reason for the timeclock discussion was. Sarah Graham stated that employees were wanting bi-monthly pay and that timeclocks would make it much easier. Carol Bohrnsen asked how many employees were wanting bimonthly pay. Janeen Bonney added that there are probably a few, but most are used to getting paid monthly already. Attorney Bradshaw suggested if Becky Mickey is needing help with payroll to give Brandi Galiher extra hours to

support the process. Commissioner McLure responded that that is not necessary, as payroll doesn't take more than a couple of days to process.

The Commission has decided to table this matter until after Union Negotiations in the spring of 2024.

REQUESTING IB ROOFING'S PERMISSION TO OPEN MEMBRANE (AS TO NOT VOID WARRANTY) & INSPECT ROOF SUBSTRUCTURE; CONTRACT WITH CRCI CONSULTING TO INSPECT COURTHOUSE ROOF; Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw explained that Slate Architecture had recommended Dave Kauffman as an expert to review the matter with Ace Roofing. He then recommended the Commission go into closed session (Litigation Strategy) to discuss the issue further.

The Commission came out of closed session to review the inspection proposal form (proposed agreement) from CRCI Consulting. Commissioner Hinkle moved to proceed with and approve Phase I and Phase II of the CRCI proposed agreement. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously. Attorney Blaine Bradshaw will reach out to IB Roofing in regards to the proposed cutting of the roof membrane for inspection by CRCI Consulting, and he will report back to the Commission.

COUNTY EASEMENT GRANT TO NORTHWESTERN ENERGY (MCKENZIE COURT); The Commission was joined by Matt Farrell who had requested an easement from the County for access to a Northwestern Energy power pole near McKenzie Court in Philipsburg. The Commission agreed to the easement earlier this summer with conditions on what the property could be developed and utilized for. The Commission wanted to ensure that they would grant the easement conditional upon marijuana not being grown as part of the greenhouse operation (commercial operation) that is set to be developed on the site. Matt Farrell agreed to the verbiage earlier this year and worked with Northwestern Energy to have them draft the easement, which is now ready for signatures. Attorney Bradshaw reviewed the draft easement grant document prepared by Northwestern Energy, noting that the conditions were not included in the draft easement document. Matt Farrell then said he will take the easement back to Northwestern Energy for a correction and return for signatures. This will be an upcoming agenda.

Commissioner Adler noted that he abstained from this matter, because he was not present for the session it was presented at.

GRANITE COUNTY BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS; The Commission reviewed a Granite County Board Reappointments for the Flint Creek Fire Service Area Board. Commissioner McLure moved to re-appoint Mike Cutler to the Flint Creek Fire Service Area Board. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Adler noted that Jason Vietor no longer wants to serve on the Flint Creek Fire Service Area Board.

RESOLUTION 2023-14; A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION FIXING THE MILL LEVY FOR THE STATE EQUALIZATION, COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL EQUALIZATION AND COUNTY ELEMENTARY EQUALIZATION MILL LEVY AUTHORITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024; FIRST READING & DECISION FOR COUNTY TREASURER FOR PROPERTY TAX STATEMENT PURPOSES; The Commission reviewed the resolution and opened the floor for public comment. Commissioner McLure moved to adopt Resolution 2023-14; A Granite County Resolution Fixing the Mill Levy for the State Equalization, County High School Equalization and County Elementary Equalization Mill Levy Authority for the Fiscal year Beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2023. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2023-15; A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MACO TO REPRESENT THE COUNTY REGARDING WRIT PETITION BEFORE THE MONTANA SUPREME COURT REGARDING STATEWIDE MILLS; FIRST READING; The Commission opened the floor for public comment regarding the Resolution 2023-15. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw provided some background on the Education Coalition Case, and how the Resolution would enable MACo to represent the County (through retained law firm) in the case, Montana Quality Education Coalition versus All 56 Counties. No public comment was received on the matter.

CLOSED SESSION; PERSONNEL MATTER; The Commission went into closed session for a personnel matter.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.