

GRANITE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Public Monthly Meeting

Courthouse Courtroom

220 N. Sansome Street, Philipsburg

April 8, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Granite County Planning Board Members: Heidi Hinkle, Gail Leeper, Jim Lochridge, Tom Sanders and John Spaeth.

Planning Board Staff: Linda Bouck, Granite County Planning Director

Guests: Maureen Connor, Elena Gagliano, Jerry Grebenc, Richard Motta and Philipsburg Mayor Daniel Reddish.

I: Call to Order

Vice-Chair John Spaeth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Board and Staff introduced themselves.

II: Pledge of Allegiance

III. Election of Officers

The Board tabled the election of officers until May when Tom Rue could be present.

IV. Growth Policy Update

Update from Philipsburg Mayor Reddish – Linda Bouck introduced Philipsburg Mayor Daniel Reddish and noted the Town of Philipsburg has received a grant to complete an independent Growth Policy for the Town of Philipsburg. Mayor Reddish explained the Town has received a grant and has contracted with Jerry Grebenc with Great West to complete the new Growth Policy. Due to the amount of growth the Town has been experiencing, the Town Council believes it is time they had their own Growth Policy. In addition to the standard items reviewed for a Growth Policy, the Town is concentrating on three main goals: a mapping component for town infrastructure; clarification and update of the Town's historic district, and an urban interface fire plan for the Town. The Town will keep the Planning Board updated on progress throughout the process.

John Spaeth asked the Mayor about emergency zoning for the Town because of recent growth. The Mayor stated he does not believe emergency zoning is needed at this time, but the Growth Policy will be laying the base work to be able to use zoning in the future if the residents are supportive.

John Spaeth asked the Mayor for an update on the Finn Subdivision. Mayor Reddish stated the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are still holding up the subdivision due to the town's sewer capacity. However, dredging and work has been completed in the past couple of years which should help with this issue. The Town's Administrative Order from DEQ was extended until 2024. A discussion was held about using some of the Covid-19 funding for the Town's infrastructure.

Discussion with Consultant Jerry Grebenc – Linda Bouck said the Board needs to look to complete a review of the Growth Policy this year. The Board has \$10,000 to complete the update. Bouck noted the Board may want to review the document and select the most needed areas to update. Since the Town has already hired Jerry Grebenc, the County may also want to look at using his company for the County's Growth Policy.

Jerry Grebenc discussed the Growth Policy with the Board. He noted the most time consuming and expensive portion of any Growth Policy is the public outreach. He suggested the Board look at sending out a survey to gather information, growth concerns, opposition, issues, develop goals and objectives noting how goals will be reached. He said given his past experience the survey could take up all of the \$10,000 money. He said the State of Montana may be doing another round of planning grants which the County may want to apply for these funds. He noted updating the economics, census information, maps are not difficult or time consuming to complete. Jerry said he would send down some survey examples for the Board to review.

Elena Gagliano suggested the Board have the newspaper do an article about the Growth Policy process.

The Board said they would review the survey info and place the Growth Policy on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

V. Minutes

Gail Leeper made a motion to approve the minutes for March 5, 2020 and March 4, 2021. Tom Sanders seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Public Comment

Dick Motta said he believes there should be a consideration for the Planning Board meetings to be held on zoom. He believes there will be more participation for items such as the Growth Policy if people have access to zoom as well as attending in person. He also requested the documentation for meetings be placed online for the public to be able to review and participate on zoom or in person.

VI. Miscellaneous

John Spaeth asked where the Trout Creek subdivision was located at as he was unable to make the previous meeting. Linda Bouck explained where it was located on the Skalkaho and noted the preliminary plat application has not yet been submitted, but comments have been coming in from the surrounding property owners with concerns over aspects of the subdivision design.

VII. Adjourn

There being no further business, Tom Sanders made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Heidi Hinkle seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 6, 2021.

Minutes approved on May 6, 2021



John Spaeth