

**September 13, 2022**

**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 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 Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson; Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper; Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Granite County Planning Director, Linda Bouck; Granite County DES Coordinator, Jackie Bolster; MT DNRC Outreach Specialist, Nadene Wadsworth; Granite Road Resident, Jim Prusa; and other members of the general public including Scott McDonald, Lorraine Dell-Bishop**

**BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner McLure moved to accept the board minutes for September 6, 2022 Commissioner meeting. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE;**

**Email correspondence from Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper concerning the Joint Session Meeting that was to be held on Thursday, September 15, 2022. There is an LEPC Meeting at the same time, so this meeting will need to be rescheduled. The Commission will review a good time to hold the joint session and re-schedule the meeting. Mayor Leeper confirmed that it would be important to re-schedule the joint session meeting.**

**An email was received from Anna Belle Locke, resigning from the DUI Task Force as she is attending college out of state. Commissioner McLure commented that this correspondence was received the week prior, and the Commission accepted Anna Belle Locke's resignation.**

**Email correspondence was received from Jeremiah Theys of Great West Engineering inviting the Commissioners to the appreciation dinner at the MACo Conference on September 27, 2022.**

**Correspondence was received from the US Forest Service proposing to permit the installation of a 120-panel, free standing solar array adjacent to the top terminal of the Anaconda Triple Chair on the Discovery Ski Area.**

**Granite County Airport Chairperson, Ernie Fulk contacted Commissioner Adler as the wind blew over a light at Riddick Field and he is in the process of locating a new one to replace it.**

**Commissioner Hinkle commented that two weeks ago a resident on Hilltop Lane (on southside of Georgetown Lake) contacted him, wanting their road maintained by the County. He explained that since it is a private road, that it is not something the County would**

maintain; however, the resident could come speak with all three Commissioners if they would like.

**PUBLIC COMMENT;** There was no public comment.

**ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT;** Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt joined the Commission to discuss recent project the Department has been working on including mixing salt and hauling sand. Paul Alt explained that originally the County had decided to get sand from Rock Creek and from Tommy Mazza, a local supplier, as Tommy Mazza wasn't going to have enough sand, however now he is going to have enough and it will be less expensive to get all of the sand from Tommy Mazza, saving approximately \$3,000.00. He added that this also keeps the transaction local. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to purchase all of the sand from Tommy Mazza. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

The Road Department has also been completing maintenance work on the Ross' Fork and should be finished this week, and has some work to do on the Middle Fork Bridge. Commissioner Adler asked Paul Alt to get with local rancher Frank Prince and Granite County Airport Chairperson, Ernie Fulk concerning a cattleguard going into the Drummond Airport that needs replaced. Frank Prince would like the cattleguard adjusted when it is replaced to better support their ranching operations. Paul Alt stated that would be fine, since the ranchers are responsible for doing the fencing work on their own.

Paul Alt raised concerns over the Black Pine plowing extension that was stated to be approximately a mile and is 2.2 miles, providing an additional of 4.4 miles of plowing for the Department. He added that the County will also have to work with Forest Service concerning their portion of the road, and asked if the Commission considered the additional manpower and salt that would be required for the additional plowing; or the other people that will be coming in with the same request. Commissioner Hinkle replied that this is a school bus route and part of a maintained County road. Commissioner McLure commented on the delegation of manpower. The group then discussed maintained versus non-maintained roads across the County, Commissioner Hinkle commented that his not in favor of snowplowing non-maintained County roads, but Black Pine is already maintained, at least a substantial portion is already maintained.

Paul Alt brought an expiring warranty on the Road Department's mower (but not the attachment) to the Commissioners attention. The cost to extend the warranty is \$6,350.00 and the warranty just covers the tractor not the mower. Commissioner Adler commented that it is a gamble on these types of things. Commissioner Hinkle supported renewing the warranty. Commissioner McLure inquired to how many hours the mower is used, which averages between 250 to 300 per season. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to move forward with renewing and purchasing the extended warranty for a term of five years. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

**Paul Alt provided a quick Solid Waste update, as the Department is getting their signs put together and he will work with Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw to articulate the wording. Paul Alt explained that the Backhoe at the Drummond site is in the process of being fixed and they are waiting on parts, but that this may need to be replaced in the future as it likely only has one more season left. The Commission recommended that the Solid Waste Department work in conjunction with the Granite County Sheriff's Department if human waste is received at the Solid Waste sites again and that those responsible are charged.**

**BRANDON PARRET, DAM TENDER'S REPORT, GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW;** The lake level was reported at 6428.04 feet; 17.52 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to decrease the outflow to 20 CFS, as agreed upon and as part of the temporary modification agreement with the MT Fish & Game, US Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, from August. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. Commissioner Adler clarified that Fish Wildlife & Parks is not in attendance. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

**GRANITE ROAD CONDITIONS;** Granite Road Resident, Jim Prusa joined the Commission and discussed a letter that was submitted to the Commission that included some recommendations to improve / maintain the road conditions of Granite Road. He explained that he also did some research on the Granite County website, looking into the budgets and was shocked at how appalling low the Road Department budget is. Jim Prusa provided background into his experience managing golf courses across Japan and how the road budget for one course was \$1M and that he has empathy for Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt. He also raised concerns over the fiberglass water lines for the Town of Philipsburg that are in the wilderness area (with wild fire potential) with Granite Road as the only access. Jim Prusa said that they are not wanting extensive improvements, but would like annual maintenance focused on clearing out water trench lines and grading the road. He added that he would be willing to work with Paul Alt to assist. Commissioner McLure commented on the budget, stating that it is low because that is what the road levy is worth and the Commission cannot do anything about the budget. Commissioner Hinkle responded that he does think that the County should do some limited maintenance in that area, commenting on the tourism to the ghost town. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw pointed toward the Road Maintenance Agreement if the Commission were to allow Jim Prusa or other landowners to do maintenance on the road. Paul Alt stated that the Road Crew is going to have to get up there and that they would like to do it with their own crew; adding that they will have to do a little bit each year and they will need to bring in gravel as there is no material up in that area. Jim Prusa mentioned the culverts in the area and that they need to be cleaned out as they are plugged and part of the drainage issues. The Commission discussed the potential of using ARPA funds if there are any leftover after slated projects to upgrade the existing culvert under the Granite Road. Jim Prusa discussed the necessity of signage in the area as well since uphill traffic has the right-of-way and those going downhill don't yield. He added that Granite is now occupied again with full-time residents and that the Commission needs to start looking 10 years down the road; that there are tax payers up there and as they build the tax base is going to go up. Commissioner Hinkle recommended getting some

drainage in and opening up some culverts this fall. Paul Alt agreed and stated as soon as they get some better weather (some rain), the Crew will get up, as right now the fire danger is too high.

**MONTHLY CLAIMS;** Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the monthly claims. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

**DNRC FLOODPLAIN PRESENTATION;** Granite County Planning Director, Linda Bouck; Granite County DES Coordinator, Jackie Bolster; and MT DNRC Outreach Specialist, Nadene Wadsworth joined the Commission to discuss the updates to the DNRC Floodplain. Linda Bouck explained that four years ago FEMA had approached the County as there was money available for them to partner with the DNRC and update the floodplain for Rock Creek and the Clark Fork, and now these areas have been mapped and the process is beginning for the County to adopt them. Commissioner Adler brought concerns over changes to residents' insurance if the new mapping requires them to carry flood insurance. Linda Bouck recommended having the County notify every resident that would be affected by the updated mapping. Nadine Wadsworth explained that through the new mapping some would be affected for the better and some for the worse. This process began in 2019 as the data for these areas hadn't been updated since the nineteen seventies. This process initiated a new study that provides accurate information and will support a more efficient permitting process for the DNRC. Nadine Wadsworth added that the floodplain mapping helps to keep property and people out of harms way. She clarified that the information is based on a "100-year flood event" which means the flood event has a 1% chance of occurring in a year. Commissioner Adler asked how a resident would challenge information if they do not agree with the new mapping. Nadine Wadsworth responded that the resident would need to hire an engineer or surveyor to submit information challenging the mapping to FEMA, who would then review it. She added that there will be formal appeal and commenting period during this process and that the DNRC will be working with the County to hold Open House Meetings. Nadine Wadsworth introduced the Commission to the project website ([www.floodplain.mt.gov/missoula-granite](http://www.floodplain.mt.gov/missoula-granite)) and walked the Commission through the navigation of the site. The project website information is also available on the Granite County website. Commissioner Hinkle inquired to how the volume of water was estimated for the "100 year event" and if wildfire burns are taken into consideration. Nadine Wadsworth explained that the volume is determined through stream gauge information, and working with the USGS to complete statistical analysis; adding that forest fire impacts aren't necessarily considered nor are flash floods, that this is based on sustained flooding. Commissioner Adler asked about the impact of irrigation ditches as these can be widened at times and if these are taken into consideration. Nadine Wadsworth responded that sometimes they are, but generally they are not. Nadine Wadsworth provided an update of changes for Rock Creek and tributaries there will be no changes to 60 structures; there will be one home that is still located in the floodway and one home that is added to the floodway; it is proposed to remove three homes from the floodway. For the Clark Fork there are 67 structures that are unchanged with 27 that are in the floodway; 21 structures added, with 16

added to the floodway; 27 structures proposed to be removed with 12 proposed to be removed from the floodway; this does not include the Town of Drummond's numbers. Nadine Wadsworth then explained how flood insurance works and that if a resident has a federally backed mortgage that flood insurance is a requirement depending on where the structure is located in the floodplain; adding that it is the best form of recovery during an incident. Nadine Wadsworth and Linda Bouck are going to work together to determine the dates of the Open Houses for Granite County and the information will be sent out and made available to the public shortly.

**RESOLUTION 2022-10: A RESOLUTION SETTING GRANITE COUNTY'S 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET, INCLUDING SALARIES OF ALL GRANITE COUNTY'S ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPUTIES, AND A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES;** Commissioner McLure stated that the week previous, the Commission made an adjustment, adding verbiage that the documents will be on file with the Granite County Clerk & Recorder's Office rather than adding attachments. Commissioner McLure motioned to accept Resolution 2022-10; A Resolution Setting Granite County's 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget, including Salaries of All Granite County's Elected Officials and Deputies, and a Cost of Living Increase for county Employees. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

**SET GRANITE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 LEVIES;** Commissioner McLure explained The Town's levies were missing on the agenda the prior week, but are now included. Commissioner McLure moved to set Granite County Fiscal year 2022-2023 Levies. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

**ALLOCATIONS SRS;** Commissioner McLure explained that the SRS Allocation is in need of being updated and will not remain the same as the Commission previously thought when receiving the correspondence in August 2022. If the County fails to update their allocation it will default with 80% going to Schools and Roads and 20% going back to the US Treasury. Commissioner McLure motioned to allocate 85% to Public Schools & Roads (Title I); 8% to Special Projects (Title II); and 7% to County Funds (Title III). Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Lorraine Dell-Bishop asking about the funding and how it could impact area schools that she had heard are not ADA compliant, and are having an impact on area children with disabilities. Commissioner McLure responded that this is federal money allocated through the County and the schools can use the money at their discretion. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw added that the ADA compliance would be a school board issue and the County Commission does not have any authority over a local public school district in that regard. Commissioner McLure added that she would like to thank Susie Browning for bringing the SRS Allocation to the attention of the Commission. With no further comments, the motion passed unanimously.

**DNRC REQUEST FOR USE OF DRUMMOND AIRPORT:** During the previous session (September 6, 2022) Commissioner Adler stated that he was contacted by the DNRC at Seeley Lake asking to land and base helicopters at the County's Airport near Drummond for firefighting purposes. The Commissioners and County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw were in agreement that this was an emergency action unanimously approved by all of the Commissioners. This item appeared on the current agenda as a formality. Commissioner McLure motioned to approve the DNRC's request to use the Drummond Airport. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. The Commission then discussed doing a blanket approval for emergency use authorization every January for these types of situations or entering into mutual aid agreements with various agencies that need to utilize these types of services.

**The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**