

January 17, 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, in attendance was Commissioner's Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski. 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 Board of Health Members Michael Kalarchik; Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn; Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes; and Bi-County Public Health Director, Lauren Bolton; BLM Field Manager, Erin Carey; BLM Project Team Lead, Kyle Johnson; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Flint Creek Hydrodynamics Operator, Paul Tallon; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; Local Resident, Kerry Hatcher; Granite County Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Mickey; Granite County Medical Center CEO, Chad Green; Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson; as well as other members of the general public including Elena Gagliano and Rick McGill.

QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH; Granite County Board of Health Members Michael Kalarchik; Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn; Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes; and Bi-County Public Health Director, Lauren Bolton joined the Commission for the Quarterly Board of Health Meeting. Michael Kalarchik began the meeting discussing the Cooperative Agreement between Public Health and DPHHS. Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes explained that the cooperative agreement is between the two agencies and states that the Sanitarian Offices will complete health inspections; and for every inspection completed DPHHS will reimburse the Public Health Department. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to approve the DPHHS Cooperative Agreement. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano criticized the Board of Health not following the agenda, noting that this is separate from the Commissioners Meeting and should not be combined. Commissioner McLure responded that these meetings have typically been combined and that the Commission would continue to do so. She also apologized for not following the agenda precisely.

The Board canceled their earlier vote on the Cooperative Agreement and began the meeting, more strictly following the publicly posted agenda. Michael Kalarchik added that he would like to have someone else take over as Chairperson for the 2023 calendar year. Commissioner McLure volunteer to be Chairperson of the Board of Health for calendar year 2023. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner McLure began the meeting as chair following the Board of Health Agenda, beginning with the approval of the December 2022 Board Minutes. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to approve the Board Minutes from December 2022. Commissioner Adler seconded the minutes There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. The Local Health Officer Report: Dr. Kira Conn comment that she did not have significant updates for the Board. Sanitarian Report: Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad

Lanes summarized that septic system inspections have slowed down, but that food inspections are still keeping his department busy. He then provided an update of the trailer in Drummond that the Board previously voted to have removed utilizing Junk Vehicle funds. Chad Lanes explained that contractor, John Grosvold just wrapped up the project he was working on in Drummond and is planning to move onto the removal of the trailer in the coming weeks. Commissioner Adler commented that landowner, Bob Teruel will need to notify his current residents to stop parking in front of the trailer that needs to be removed as to not slow down the removal of said trailer. Chad Lanes responded that he has been communicating with Lacey Grosvold, the Office Administrator for John Grosvold and will ensure the information is communicated and that the proper documentation is in order. The Board then re-reviewed the Cooperative Agreement between Public Health and DPHHS. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to accept the agreement. Michael Kalarchik seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. Public Health Report: Public Health Director Lauren Bolton joined the Board to provide an overview of programs and services offered by the Department. She explained that between October and December WIC has facilitated 14 visits which is a large improvement and that Jackie Bolster does a great job promoting the program across the County. Commissioner McLure commented that there is not a vendor that accepts WIC and asked if Public Health could work with that vendor to make that possible. Lauren Bolton responded that there is not a vendor that currently accepts WIC in Granite County, but that there are obstacles that the vendor would face if they were to become a WIC vendor, including having to carry a minimum stock of certain formulas, which can be expensive if there is not enough people on the program or purchasing the formula. However, if the program continues to grow it may be an option in the future. The Area V program is consistently serving 19-22 clients and Public Health is working with the Community Health Worker stationed at Granite County Medical Center, Shannon Martel to support the program and transition patients needing a higher level of care. Lauren Bolton provided a vaccination update, Public Health gave 64 vaccination and received \$7500 in payments to the County. PHEP Update: Currently PHEP is working on updating documentation and sending it off to the State for approval. Tobacco Prevention Update: Amanda Boherer has been hosting art classes at the Drummond School on Wednesdays which has proven to be a successful alternative activity for youth. Public Health Nurse, Debbie Robinson is going to begin picking up some of the Tobacco Prevention work in Granite County during her time here on Mondays and Wednesdays. Commissioner Adler commented that he and Public Health Nurse Assistant, Jackie Bolster toured the new Men's Recovery Center at Beavertail and that it is a great facility and voluntary rehabilitation center that is covered by Medicaid. He also commented on the "Purple Out" that Jackie Bolster and Jodi Oberweiser facilitated throughout the school system the week prior for Alzheimer's Awareness. He thanked them for their work on the project, adding how wonderful it was to see the participation from both the Philipsburg and Drummond schools at the basketball game. Lauren Bolton commented on Jackie Bolster's hard work on the "Purple Out" and added that Public Health was also able to secure a speaker for the schools in October, Dr. Heather Deblousee, who spoke on vaping and bullying within the schools. Additionally, Public Health hosted vaccination clinics in all County Schools during the fall months. Lauren Bolton added that Public Health was able to participate in the Active

Shooter Table Top this fall, and that it was one of the best table top exercises that she has attended. The Board thanked everyone for their time and work. Commissioner Adler motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. The next quarterly Board of Health Meeting will be held on April 18, 2023.

BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for January 10, 2023. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE; An update was received from the Lolo Revision Team concerning the Lolo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision, explaining that they will be conducting webinars to gather public input beginning in January 2023. Commissioner Adler asked that Commission Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski reach out to Lolo National Forest and ask for them to come provide the Commissioners with an update on projects.

The 2023 Impact Report from the Maureen & Mike Mansfield Center was received from the University of Montana.

Electronic Mail was received from Rick McGill providing information and comments concerning the Junk Vehicle Job Description. His comments will be discussed further during that specific agenda item.

The Hogan's Account (store in Hall, Montana) Application was received. The Commission asked that Janeen Bonney and the Weed Crew be added to Hogan's Account as well as Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt. The Commission agreed that Department Heads can order from Hogan's if necessary.

PUBLIC COMMENT; There was no public comment.

KERRY HATCHER WITH QUESTIONS CONCERNING INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT; Local Resident, Kerry Hatcher joined the Commission to discuss the insurance requirement of the Road Maintenance Agreement regarding Stuart Lake Road, a County road. His agreement was approved earlier in the month with the County.–Kerry Hatcher began the discussion to explain that a while back he spoke with Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt because he had been maintaining the road he lives on (Stuart Lake Road). He built his home about four years ago with no expectation of the County to provide maintenance; and over the last few years has put around \$10K worth of gravel on the road and graded as well as plowed snow off the road. About 8 months ago he contacted the Road Department because there was collapsed culvert and a cattleguard that needed to be removed. The Road Department and remedied the issues and Paul Alt has suggested that Kerry Hatcher get a Road Maintenance Agreement with the County. In doing so Kerry Hatcher discovered that it would cost him around \$5,000.00 for the appropriate policy and coverage; and that this has rubbed him the wrong way since for the last four years he has been maintaining the road on his own and at his own expense. He added that there is a sign that states there is no regular maintenance on the road which inhibits UPS from delivering to his home, which has also caused some

inconvenience; however, since he maintains the road FedEx will deliver. Kerry Hatcher asked the Commission what their road priorities are given that the City water supply tanks are on Stuart Lake Road and how this works into the Emergency Preparedness Plans. He added that there are eleven homes in the area, two with school aged children; and that in light of the Commission recent decision on Black Pine Road he thought he should ask about the County's road priorities. Commissioner Hinkle commented that he doesn't think the Hatchers should be doing maintenance on the road, as this is a County road, but above the water tanks the road is simply too steep to maintain. Commissioner McLure added that she thinks in this case that the road needs to be maintained and added to the road maintenance list. Commissioner Hinkle explained that the way he understands it, is if someone is doing maintenance on a road they are liable of it, which is the reason for the high cost of insurance; but that with the water supply on Stuart Lake Road the County should be maintaining it. Commissioner McLure agreed, adding that the sign will need to be relocated to above the water tanks, where maintenance will not be possible. Commissioner Adler asked that Kerry Hatcher stay for the Road & Bridge segment so this matter can be discussed with the Road & Bridge Superintendent as well. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking for a point of clarification; as to of what road was being discussed. The Commission confirmed that it was Stuart Lake Road.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt joined the Commission to provide a brief update of projects the Department has been working on including ensuring roads are sanded to address the ice. He explained that the Department has been working diligently to ensure the Middle Fork Gravel Pit is ready for F&R LLC to begin work on Wednesday. Commissioner McLure asked if the Department worked through the holiday on Monday. Paul Alt responded that he had one employee working on the holiday (Monday), as the Department is in a time-crunch. The employee worked alongside Weaver Construction and F&R LLC to ensure the project would be ready to commence this week. Paul Alt added that the reason for the time crunch is that once they begin to work they need to remain steady until they get it done; and if there had been ice there would have been four or five guys working on Monday. Commissioner Hinkle asked how the material is looking at the Middle Fork gravel pit. Paul Alt responded that it looks good, and that there is more top soil than they originally thought, which is good for when they reclaim the pit.

Solid Waste Update: Paul Alt explained that the backhoe repairs will be done next week. Commissioner Adler commented that the backhoe is in bad shape. Commissioner Hinkle added that this is something the Commission will need to discuss replacing when we talk about the LATCF funds in a few weeks.

The group then discussed the previous agenda item of Stuart Lake Road. Commissioner Adler had Kerry Hatcher provide a quick summary of the matter previously discussed in the meeting. Kerry Hatcher did so, adding that he did not come to the meeting to ask the County to do anything on Stuart Lake Road, but to ask the County what their priorities are, resulting in the Commission not believing that Kerry Hatcher should be doing maintenance on the road. Commissioner Hinkle added that he and Commissioner McLure think that the County

should be doing maintenance on the road, but that it is not feasible to maintain past the Town of Philipsburg's water tanks, because the hill area of the road is too steep. Paul Alt responded that there is going to need to be a lot more gravel put onto the road, but that it is the Commission's call. Commissioner McLure added that this is going to continue into the future because of the increase in County growth, and that this road is so close to town that it should be done and the homeowner should not be doing it. Paul Alt added that this is one of many roads that needs to be graveled and he believes we will have several of them. Commissioner Adler questioned if the City (aka Town) is doing any maintenance or plans to do any maintenance on the road since it behooves them to access their water supply. Kerry Hatcher responded that he has not ever seen the City doing maintenance on the road. Commissioner McLure asked if the County would have a policy with the City since it is in their best interest to have the road maintained in order to access the area. Commissioner Hinkle commented that it is the County's road. Commissioner McLure motioned to have Stuart Lake Road added to the maintained roads list of Granite County (up to the Town of Philipsburg's water tanks); and to have the "Road not regularly maintained" sign relocated to just past that water tank area. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. The motion passed two to one with Commissioner Adler dissenting.

JUNK VEHICLE PROGRAM COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION & WAGE REVISION; This item was continued from the previous week. Commissioner Adler recused himself from this item. Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham joined the Commission to explain that the record keeping and bookkeeping has been completed by the Clerk & Recorder's Office and can continue to be done as such. Commissioner McLure commented that she would like to get rid of the job description completely because it does not pertain to what the County has been doing. She added that in doing the research on the program it looks as though the County has been throwing money away on having a Coordinator, when the Clerk & Recorder's Office does the administration. Commissioner McLure stated that at one point the Road Department removed the vehicles until they began utilizing outside towing services. She suggested to continue having the administration work completed in the Clerk & Recorder's Office and to have the salary benefits from the grant utilized to reimburse their office. She added that then certain revenue could then be utilized by the Road Department for picking up the vehicles. Paul Alt responded that the Road Department does not want to take the equipment out and remove the junk vehicles. Commissioner Hinkle recommended having the Sheriff's Office go out and tag the vehicles. Commissioner McLure commented on correspondence received from local resident, Rick McGill. *I was trying to listen to the commissioners' meeting on 10 Jan regarding the position of Junk Vehicle Coordinator and it sounded like the commissioners weren't fully aware of all the duties and responsibilities of the position as described in Montana Code Annotated. There was discussion of assigning the responsibility to another county employee such as the road supervisor or weed sprayer, etc., but MCA specifically mandates each county to designate a representative to be responsible for the program in the county. (75-10-521.4) While an employee of any county department could be assigned/designated, the extra duties of the position would detract from their existing job. The position is admittedly part-time but active enough that it shouldn't be added to another job. There is quite a bit of book-keeping associated with the*

position in addition to what was mentioned in the Jan 10 meeting, i.e., “going out and marking vehicles with spray paint.” Identifying details of incoming vehicles are entered into the vehicle graveyard log and a quarterly report is made to the state. MCA says they will arrange for crushing when the number of vehicles reaches 200 but sometimes it is possible to coordinate with a neighboring county (Powell) to combine that number and dispose of junk vehicles sooner. Also, the initial towing of vehicles to the county vehicle graveyard is part of the time involved as vehicles have to be arranged to maximize the use of space in the yard. The position is funded by the state (75-10-534) and the county is allowed to sell junk vehicles to licensed recyclers and retain any revenue over and above a certain formula based on an amount in the statute. Excess revenues are required to be used by the junk vehicle program in the county. There is a lot information in the state statute but to save you some search time, the full MCA section on junk vehicles is [HERE](#). Thanks for your time, Rick. Commissioner Hinkle, responded to some of his concerns, while adding that on average the County only removes eight vehicles annually. Commissioner McLure further stated that currently the County only pays \$200 per vehicle which is not enough and that they need to start paying fair market value for towing, which they can do if they aren't paying for a Coordinator. Commissioner Hinkle responded that he basically agrees, but that the County needs to find someone to tag the vehicles. Public comment was received from Rick McGill stating that State law requires the County to designate a Junk Vehicle Coordinator. Commissioner McLure recommended the Clerk & Recorder's Office. Sarah Graham added that the Clerk & Recorder's Office can continue to complete the administration and that they would also contact the towing companies to remove the vehicles. She added that they have budgeted up to \$300 per vehicle for removal and that they can put something in the newspaper to advertise the program. Commissioner Hinkle asked if the County could require those wanting to use the program to bring the vin number in and then mark the car. Commissioner McLure added that this might be a good idea to have the Sheriff's Office handle, and that the wages and benefits could then be transferred into their Department for reimbursement. Commissioner McLure asked that if the junk vehicle yard needs to be cleaned up, if the Road & Bridge Department could assist with the task. Paul Alt responded that they could. Commissioner McLure added that this too would be reimbursable to the Road & Bridge Department through revenue. She continued that there shouldn't be a set price for towing companies but a fair wage or fair market value of the towing price. Commissioner McLure motioned to have the Coordinator assigned to the Granite County Clerk & Recorder and to not have a part-time position for a Junk Vehicle Coordinator. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano thanking Commissioner McLure for screensharing on the Zoom platform and asked for clarification of the Coordinator Position that is being discussed. Commissioner McLure clarified that the job description for the Coordinator Position is being thrown out, as the County does not have a need for the position. The motion passed unanimously (two votes with Commissioner Adler recusing himself).

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; BRANDON PARRET, DAM TENDER'S REPORT;
The lake level was reported at 6428.07 feet; 17.16 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Flint Creek Hydrodynamics Operator, Paul Tallon stated that Roger Kirk sent information for the Commission

explaining that there is currently 20 CFS coming into the lake. The Commission discussed the reliability of the information, and asked that Commission Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski find out the formula's being used to calculate the inflows, ensuring the Commission is receiving accurate information. Additionally, they requested that they receive the calculation for revenue that they receive at 6 CFS as opposed to 10 CFS. Commissioner Hinkle explained that he wants to keep more water in the lake and wet the banks in order to ensure the lake is able to fill. Commissioner McLure commented that this would be the same for the creek banks. Commissioner Adler responded that this is more of concern during the springtime for the creek banks, and that the water would just run down them at this point. Commissioner Hinkle used the current conditions in California as an example, where the rains are doing very little for their drought because the ground is dry that the water can't get into the aquifer and is running off. The group further discussed the conditions of moisture in the ground disagreeing over the rate at which the lake level is increasing. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to continue releasing 6 CFS as allowed under the current temporary modification consent agreement in place. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed two to one with Commissioner McLure dissenting.

MONTHLY CLAIMS; The Commission reviewed the monthly claims. Granite County Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Mickey joined the Commission to discuss a claim with General Distributing for oxygen tanks (for Philipsburg Ambulance). She explained that Granite County Medical Center is having some picked up and can add the tanks the County no longer needs to be picked up with theirs if the Commission would like. Commissioner Adler requested her to check with the Sheriff's Office to confirm that the County has no use for the tanks; if the County no longer needs the tanks they can be picked up by General Distributing. Becky Mickey looked into the matter and the tanks are no longer needed, and will be picked up by General Distributing. Commissioner McLure moved to accept the monthly claims. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

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

BLM FIELD MANAGER, ERIN CAREY WITH A CLARK FORK FACE PROJECT UPDATE: The Commission was joined by BLM Field Manager, Erin Carey and Project Team Lead, Kyle Johnson for an update of the Clark Fork Face Project. Erin Carey began the discussion providing some background on the project as it is the largest local project that the BLM has underway and is by-large in Granite County. Recently there was a public comment period that ended on January 15, 2023 and the BLM is currently reviewing the information and will then make final decisions concerning the project. Kyle Johnson provided a quick orientation of the project as the Team Lead and a Forester for the BLM. The planning areas for this project cover both Missoula and Granite Counties and one thing new to the project is the recent signing (within the last two years) of the Resource Management Plan (RMP). In the RMP, Fire Management Zone 1 was identified and the RMP gives direction to prioritize human lives and properties at risk; and firefighter safety.

This has been a key component to the project. Kyle Johnson added that Fish & Wildlife Service has already issued their opinion for the RMP and all the documentation is in order for the project. Protecting life and property is the priority over the lakes, however that does not mean that the treatment will negatively affect the lakes. Kyle Johnson discussed the likelihood of fire in this area and related it back to the purpose and needs statement of protecting life, property, and firefighter safety; moving onto how this translates into the development of temporary roads in the area. Commissioner Adler questioned the development of temporary roads into the area as previously the BLM has commented on the necessity of having roads to gain access in and out of these areas. Kyle Johnson responded that not all of the roads are going to be temporary and that most of the roads are permanent in order to support maintenance. The group discussed the compromises that the BLM has had to make with other agencies such as Fish Wildlife & Parks to get the project to move forward. Commissioner Adler stating that he would like to see more mining and logging, but that it always seems like it is necessary to give more than you are able to take when compromising with agencies. Erin Carey responded that this project is one of the largest projects the BLM has put forth in awhile and that it has come with a lot of attention, discussion, and compromise; making it a balancing act. She added that they have to meet some of these needs in order to meet their objectives and that they will still be able to produce forest products from this project. Commissioner Adler asked for more information on the specifics. Kyle Johnson responded that the project is 19,147 acres with just under 10,000 acres for timber harvest. To facilitate those treatments the BLM is proposing 6 miles of temporary roads and 16 miles of permanent roads; the temporary roads have to be removed within 3 years. The typical harvest is 5,000 board feet to the acre across 10,000 acres; which means this project will generate approximately 50 Million Board feet over 10 years. This is wood that will be utilized at larger saw mills, and a much higher number will be utilized for post and rail. Kyle Johnson added that there has been a large resurgence in firewood as well. Erin Carey commented that the BLM is a small player in contrast to the US Forest Service but are reliable and consistent in their ability to offer these sales. The BLM received a lot of comments and received some negative press from the *Missoulian* concerning this project, and are taking the time to respond to the comments. She added that this spring she would be willing to take the Commission to the project field to enable them to see the project in real terms. Commissioner Adler responded that he would appreciate that offer and would like to see the project area. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano thanking the BLM for the presentation and asking Kyle Johnson for his contact information, which he provided.

GRANITE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER CEO CHAD GREEN WITH A MONTHLY UPDATE; The Commission was joined by Granite County Medical Center (GCMC) CEO Chad Green for a monthly update. Currently Granite County is considered at a low community risk level for COVID-19 with two active cases. GCMC is still screening employees and visitors as well as requiring masks at the hospital. Vaccination rate is at 39% for Granite County and at 53% for Montana for the eligible population. There have been seven cases of Monkeypox in Montana which has been unchanged in the last two months. There are still a lot of cases of RSV and the flu in the community. The hospital recently had 9 E.R. patients and saw 16 patients in one day which was a very busy day. Chad Green

commented that not all of these were flu and RSV, but a lot of them were. Long-term Care residents had a wonderful holiday season, enjoying a nice Thanksgiving Dinner in November, participating in the Yule Night Parade, decorating a tree for Festival of Trees, and spending time to decorate the facility. GCMC has completed the refrigerator / freezer upgrade and are still working on a variety of IT projects. The cold weather highlighted some issues with heating that the hospital is also concentrating on. The clinic in Drummond is now seeing patients on Tuesdays with hopes of expanding to more days in the future. GCMC has also been working to promote internally and support current employees to get their CNA credentials. GCMC is however still looking to fill various positions including a Board Clerk, Director of Nursing, RN Charge Nurse (Day / Night), Medical Assistant, and a Mid-Level Provider. Dr. Hunter Crose is the new Medical Director at GCMC, they thanked Dr. Reiter for his service and have wished him the best of luck with all of his future endeavors.

GRANITE COUNTY CREDIT CARD POLICY; The Commission reviewed the current Credit Card Policy. Granite County Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Becky Mickey joined the session to explain that recently there was an unauthorized purchase on the County Building Credit Card from Amazon in the amount of \$169.00. She furnished the sign-out sheet which reads “no Amazon purchases are authorized”; and provided an explanation of how these charges could have occurred. The first explanation is this being a fraudulent purchase. The second plausible explanation being that a County Department (employee) ordered something on Amazon using the County credit card (Amazon saves the card information and can default to the card for future purchases) and it was unintentionally charged by the users account. Becky Mickey explained that a new card has been ordered and that she submitted a claim into Visa for an investigation. She added that she is asking that the Commission make an addition to the current Credit Card Policy to include language around online purchases being made on the County Building Card not the specific Department Cards. Becky Mickey offered to utilize her Amazon account or to complete the online transactions for Departments using the County Building Credit Card. Updated language will be drafted and the revised Credit Card Policy will be on the upcoming agenda (January 24, 2023).

DRAFTED EMPLOYEE MEMO: The Commission reviewed the drafted memo to be circulated to all Granite County employees. Commissioner McLure motioned to approve the employee memo, having all employees sign and return the memo to the Commissioner’s Office by January 27. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

RELEASE OF FLINT CREEK PROJECT INFORMATION TO NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT; The Commission discussed the request to release information to Northwestern Energy and the terms of the Non-Disclosure Agreement, ensuring that the information shared would not be shared with the public by Northwestern Energy as a portion of the information will not be public documentation. Commissioner McLure motioned to release project information to Northwestern Energy

following receipt of a signed non-disclosure agreement. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

ACQUIRING A NEW COUNTY VEHICLE; Commissioner McLure explained that the Financial Auditor suggested the County acquire a new vehicle for employees to utilize. She added that since the County included the statute (*MCA 2-18-503 (2-a) When a state officer or employee is authorized to travel by motor vehicle and chooses to use a privately owned motor vehicle even though a government-owned or government-leased motor vehicle is available, the officer or employee may be reimbursed only at the rate of 48.15% of the mileage rate allowed by the United States internal revenue service for the current year.*) in their resolution, that they need to have an adequate vehicle available. Commissioner Hinkle raised concerns over spending close \$40,000.00 on a new vehicle in comparison to the amount that the County will save through implementation of the statute. Commissioner McLure agreed that this is not something that is going to pay for itself, but added that the County does have funds available to pay for a vehicle through the LATCF funds. The Commission calculated out the mileage that an employee would receive if they chose to take their own vehicle which would amount to approximately thirty-two cents per mile. Commissioner Adler commented that if the County had something dependable that more employees would likely use it. The Commission discussed insurance coverages. Commissioner Hinkle stated that he doesn't think it is necessary to purchase such a vehicle. Commissioner Adler added that is a benefit to the employees to have a decent vehicle to travel in. The Commission then discussed the decision to take a personal vehicle over a company vehicle and the decreased mileage that would be paid out. Commissioner Hinkle raising concerns over matter, commenting on Road Inspections that he goes on and not wanting to take his personal vehicle to some of the roads for fear of damage being done to his personal vehicle. Commissioner McLure clarified that this would be a vehicle to utilized if an employee needed to go to a training. Commissioner Adler added that no employee is going to be forced to take the County vehicle and that they can use their personal vehicle and take the lower mileage reimbursement. He continued, by stating that this vehicle will need to be taken care of and that someone will need to be in charge of it. Commissioner McLure stated that the Clerk & Recorder's Office has already volunteered to be in charge of the vehicle. The current County Vehicle will be put out for silent public bid, as well as any other vehicles that are not needed by the County (this will be an agenda item on January 24, 2023). Commissioner McLure motioned to purchase a new County Vehicle, looking at a Chevrolet Traverse. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano stating that there are two courtesy vehicles at Riddick Field that are never utilized and that the County should utilize those. Granite County Deputy Clerk & Recorder Becky Mickey added that the Clerk & Recorder's Office has discussed using the vehicle daily to get the mail to ensure it doesn't sit and is driven regularly. The motion passed two to one with Commissioner Hinkle dissenting. Commissioner Adler will oversee the purchasing process of the new County vehicle.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.