

April 26, 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 Scott Adler, Commissioner Blanche McLure, and Commissioner Hinkle attending. Also attending were Commission Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski and Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, who attended (via Zoom phone link) for a portion of the agenda items set for the day. 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 Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Drummond Mayor, Gail Leeper; Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn; Board of Health Member, Ashley Westphal; Board of Health Chairperson, Michael Kalarchik; Granite County Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Amanda Bohrer; Granite County Public Health Assistant, Jackie Bolster; Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes; Mental Health Coordinator, Robyn Grinolds; Public Health Director, Leigh Ann Holmes; Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson; US Forest Service District Ranger (Pintler District), Cameron Rasor; US Forest Service Soil Scientist (Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest), Sara Rouse; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham; Town of Philipsburg Public Works Director, Sam Dennis; and other members of the general public including Elena Gagliano.

GRANITE COUNTY QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING; The Commission was joined by Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn; Board of Health Member, Ashley Westphal; Board Chairperson, Michael Kalarchik; Granite County Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Amanda Boher; Granite County Public Health Assistant, Jackie Bolster; Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes; Mental Health Coordinator, Robyn Grinolds; Public Health Director, Leigh Ann Holmes; and Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson. New Board of Health member, Ashley Westphal was introduced to the public. Local Health Officer, Dr. Kira Conn was having some technical difficulties but commented that she didn't have any concerns or issues to report. The Board of Health confirmed receipt of a DEQ Certificate of Fitness for a methamphetamine lab property at 67 Princeton Road, Philipsburg, MT.

Tri-County Sanitarian, Chad Lanes explained that development across Granite County is still incredibly busy with building and set to surpass last year if the pace continues. He has been completing several site visits and receiving multiple septic permit applications weekly as well as inquiries from realtors. They are also working on licensed establishment inspections with an emphasis on high-risk places. Chad Lanes and his team attended the MEHA / MPHA joint conference in Helena. He explained that there was some discussion on SB199 - "The Montana Local Food Choice Act" and its impact on how the Department is handling Cottage Food vendors as well as the impact on farmers markets. Locally Chad Lanes and his team are working with the markets to help them understand the potential liability involved. Chad Lanes brought forth an issue in the Drummond area of an

abandoned trailer next to the Drummond Motel. Scott Forbes owns the Drummond Motel and reached out to the Sanitarian's Office because the abandoned trailer is becoming a nuisance due to trash and pests. Chad Lanes is working with Granite County Planning Director, Linda Bouck about this issue and may need the Board of Health's assistance. Chad Lanes is also working on a complaint by Mulkey Gulch concerning blowing trash and general decay, which he will be in contact with Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw about.

Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Amanda Bohrer reported that she has been working with schools across Granite County to engage the youth and implement educational events centered around prevention. Amanda Bohrer also recently was invited to speak at the Drummond Library concerning prevention issues and has been working with local non-profit, Healthy Granite County Network to support their work. Amanda explained that February was "Through with Chew" Month and she ran an article in the paper as well as stocked several locations across the County with Chew Quit Kits. These kits can currently be found at the Granite County Courthouse in Philipsburg and the Drummond Public Health Office. Amanda has been working with the school systems to implement signage and educational materials to youth about not only chew and cigarettes, but also vaping. Amanda Bohrer stated there was recently a complaint about smoking in front of the library in Philipsburg and explained how to submit a complaint as she will also be handling complaints for marijuana infractions.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking for clarification on the posting of reports and documents for Amanda's segment. Commission Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski explained that the documents provided during the meeting would be posted to the Granite County website once the meeting ends.

Mental Health Coordinator, Robyn Grinolds reported that there was a CIT Training that took place in March, and the Granite County Sheriff's Department was able to send someone. Public Health Director, Leigh Ann Holmes added that there is money to reimburse the travel expenses and wages for the person that attended the training. Leigh Ann Holmes explained that the County will just need to invoice Anaconda-Deerlodge County for the reimbursement as they are administering the CIT grant Robyn Grinolds works under. There will be another CIT training coming up in Butte. Robyn Grinolds will be providing that information to those interested within the County.

Granite County PHEP Coordinator, Jennifer Robinson reported that there is currently one positive case of COVID-19 in Granite County. She has also attended several training this spring that have been very beneficial. She is currently working on the COVID-19 AAR (After Action Report) for Granite County. This report does take some time and she has been working with multiple parties on it. Jennifer Robinson also explained that she has several other documents that she has to present to the Board of Health and needs signatures on. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to approve and sign the following documents; PHEP Training Exercise Plan 2021-2023; Granite County Resource Request Protocol; Granite Mass Immunization Protocol; Granite ESF 8 Public Health EMS & Mass Fatality; Granite EMC Plan; and Surveillance Protocol Communicable Disease. Commissioner McLure

seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if the Board of Health was going to review the documents. Jennifer Robinson explained to Elena that the Board of Health received these documents two weeks prior to the meeting to review and provide them with time to reach out to her with questions. Jennifer Robinson added that if Elena Gagliano has questions on any of the documents she would be happy to sit down and go through them with her. With no further public comment the motion passed unanimously.

The Public Health Department Update was delivered by Public Health Assistant, Jackie Bolster and Public Health Director Leigh Ann Holmes. Currently the Public Health Department has been working on providing immunizations as well as providing WIC services to members of the County. The Area V Program has become quite successful in Granite County and there are now three aids working in the program.

Leigh Ann Holmes added that Granite County Public Health Nurse, Debbie Robinson has been attending trainings that that Anaconda-Deerlodge County has been paying for and she plans on invoicing the County for half of amount of travel and expenses. She also added that the Contract for Public Health Services between Anaconda-Deerlodge County and Granite County is coming up for renewal and that she will get in touch with Billie Ann Kulaski to get on the agenda soon, adding that she thinks things are going very well.

Granite County Public Health Assistant, Jackie Bolster announced that she will be leading the Walk with Ease Program in the Drummond area and that Kim Hendel is volunteering to lead the program in the Philipsburg Area. Jackie Bolster will also be working with the American Red Cross to install smoke alarms in residents' homes on May 20th. The American Red Cross will also be accompanying Jackie Bolster to a local Rotary meeting on May 19th to discuss programs that are available through them. She also added that there will be a Blood Drive through the American Red Cross taking place in July. Jackie Bolster has also been preparing for an evidence-based activity as part of FICMMR (Fetal, Infant, Child, and Maternal Mortality Review), following the death of child in the County during a house fire. The evidence-based activity will incorporate educational programming about fire safety through a presentation at each of the County schools.

BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner McLure moved to accept the Board minutes for April 19, 2022. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

A notice from District Judge Dayton was received stating that he plans to return to live court in Granite County effective the week of May 2, 2022.

The Agenda for the LEPC Special Meeting for April 27, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the Philipsburg Town Hall was received.

A Notice was received from the Montana Department of Administration announcing the FFY 2021 Federal Forest Reserve Payments.

A notice from Judge Fratzke (Justice Court) was received, explaining that she will be attending spring conference in May.

CLAIMS; Granite County Clerk & Recorder, Sarah Graham joined the Commission to have a few claims reviewed and approved for the month. Sarah Graham also voiced her excitement over the amount the County would be receiving from the SRS Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENT;

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if the SRS document referred to in correspondence was part of PILT. Commissioner McLure explained that it is not PILT, the SRS funds are awarded and divided between schools and the Road Department and that this is an annual thing that is awarded to the County.

Public comment was sent via email from Suzanne Browning concerning the Road & Bridge Department: The Commission received the public comment and reviewed it. It reads as follows: *April 22, 2022; RE: 9:45 Public Comment on Matters within the Commissioners' Jurisdiction; Granite County Commissioners: I am not able to attend the meeting or by Zoom. For the record, I have written public comment, during the Granite County Agenda, on April 26, 2022 – 9:45 Public Comment on Matters within the Commissioners' Jurisdiction. In regards to the email that I sent, for the April 19, 2022, 9:30 agenda item – Agreement between Charlie Parke and Granite County for Storage Space; Discussion & Decision, I want to make some clarification. 1. The email was public comment, for the April 19th agenda item stated above. This was in the subject line and first paragraph of the email. The Commission had discussion on my email previous to the agenda item. 2. I was of the understanding that the Commission has discussion on an agenda item, with or without a motion, then will ask for public comment on that item. This was the reason I apologized, if some of my questions were repetitious. 3. In review of my email, some of the questions, I asked, should probably not have been included with that particular agenda item. It was not the subject. 4. On the April 12th recording, the Road & Bridge Superintendent's report included: we are ripping up the millings, down at Linda's pond, and we are going to haul them down to Charlie Parke's ground, put a pad down for the new ones that are coming or that we are going to be getting. 5. Thus, my question on the "cold millings" being added for storage, which I assumed were from a construction award contract, as well as the questions, for using these millings on county roads, and the road fund budget. This was not for the millings that were being ripped up. The Road & Bridge Superintendent's report included, new ones that are coming or that we are going to be getting. 6. I'm very aware that Linda and Linda's family no longer want the millings stored at their site. Also, I know of the problems that occurred when the millings were stored there in 2020. Her letter of understanding was signed in September 2020, after the millings were stockpiled, and I was glad to see that the County had increased the monetary value for her lease too. 7. Last, but not least, I have no problem with Granite County and Charlie Parke having a letter of understanding, for the storage site, nor for the monetary amount being paid for the lease. The millings needed to be moved. 8. My public comment is the agreement should have been on the agenda, on April 12, 2022, for transparency, not on April 19th after the millings were being hauled. This letter is for*

Public Comment at 9:45, not the Road & Bridge Weekly Report, or the Finalized Agreement between Charlie Parke and Granite County. Thank you for your time. Regards, Suzanne Browning.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if the Commission was going to put Suzanne Browning's comments on the agenda to address them. Commissioner McLure summarized that on April 12th the matter of the millings should have been placed on the agenda. Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt had authority to move the millings and Commissioner Hinkle explained that the County was cleaning up millings that they needed to remove, which they committed to do a year ago. He went on to state that if Paul Alt can't go and do that when there is time to do it, it is ridiculous. Commissioner McLure asked that in the future, Paul Alt have things on the agenda that he is going to discuss to appease the public. Paul Alt agreed.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt joined the Commission to provide a quick update of projects the road department has been working on including finishing clean up on Linda White's property, where they plan on throwing some grass seed down to replenish the space the millings were stored in. The Road Department has also been blading Bear Gulch Road and East Fork Road. They also have one blade going up Rumsey Road and then it will go up to the Georgetown Lake area. Paul Alt added that Caterpillar is coming in to clean off the roads, then they will begin hitting all of the roads they can until water is turned on. Then the Road Department will start cold-patching starting down Rock Creek Road. Paul Alt explained that Black Pine Road is also getting pretty broke up down by the bridge and that they are going to dirt patch a bunch of that area. Commissioner McLure asked what that is. Paul Alt responded it is a mixture of hot oil and chips. Paul then added that he is planning on purchasing oil the first part of May as it should be the less expensive oil, than what is currently available.

Commissioner Hinkle asked about opportunities for funding through ARPA or the Infrastructure Bill. Commission Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski responded that according to the final rule on ARPA funds, there are opportunities to use funds to replace culverts with larger culverts or to add culverts to areas in need of improved water flow. She explained that the County has already dedicated their Minimum Allocation Grant (MAG) funds to the Towns and that they would have to look and see what they had available in their Direct Allocation. Billie Ann Kulaski added that the Commission has already began working on the Padded Jail Cell and was hoping to utilize the other funds in the direct allocation for ADA projects within the Courthouse, which they have had a difficult time securing an architect to partner with. Commissioner Adler asked to have a list of the grants the County has and the correlated projects on the agenda next week for review. The Commission also asked that Paul Alt begin to put together a map of areas that he would like to add or replace culverts across the County.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHARLIE PARKE AND GRANITE COUNTY FOR STORAGE SPACE; After previous discussion on the matter over the last couple of weeks, Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt took the agreement to Charlie Parke for review and

signature. Charlie Parke signed the agreement, however he didn't list how many cubic yards of material (millings, other materials, etc.) would be available for storage so that provision would be left open (to be mutually agreed upon later). Paul Alt explained that Charlie Parke had said they could expand as they need to. Commissioner McLure asked if Charlie Parke was okay with the agreement. Paul Alt responded that Charlie Parke is good with the agreement. Commissioner Hinkle moved to sign and accept the agreement between Charlie Parke and Granite County for Storage Space; Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 400; GRANITE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT & SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT REQUEST TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS; Commissioner Adler explained that he feels as though International Union Operating Engineers Local 400, Union Representative, Craig Davis needs to approach the County with an offer and proposed dates and times for negotiations with the County. Commissioner McLure motioned that International Union Operating Engineers Local 400, Union Representative, Craig Davis bring the offer to the County for negotiations to begin. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously. County will send correspondence requesting this of the Union.

THE TOWN OF PHILIPSBURG PROPOSING PARTNERSHIP; US Forest Service District Ranger (Pintler District), Cameron Rasor; US Forest Service Soil Scientist (Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest), Sara Rouse; and Town of Philipsburg Public Works Director, Sam Dennis joined the Commission to discuss a project that the Town of Philipsburg pursued two RAC grants for and was awarded. The project includes work to be done on Red Lion Road. Sam Dennis explained that the Town of Philipsburg has been going back and forth with Forest Service to figure out to expend the approximately \$109K without having to come up with a substantial amount of matching funds. If the RAC funds were to be utilized in partnership with the County, it eliminates the necessity for matching funds due to the Road Maintenance Agreement the Forest Service holds with the County. Under the schedule A of the Road Maintenance Agreement it enables the County to work on Forest Service Roads and the Forest Service to work on the County's roads. Sam Dennis noted that he came before the Commission today to get a feel of how the Commission felt about partnering. Sara Rouse explained that this would require working with the US Forest Service Grants & Agreements Team, and that there could be two separate agreements one with the Town of Philipsburg and one with the County. She added that it would essentially be the County contracting with the Forest Service. The only other option for the Town of Philipsburg is to do the work on the road in-house, which would eliminate the matching funds, however they don't have the manpower to do it. Commissioner Hinkle asked how much of Red Lion Road was going to be focused on. Sam Dennis replied that the initial plan is for the one mile stretch that the Town of Philipsburg is responsible for, but eventually they would like to partner with both agencies to complete work on the rest of the road. Sara Rouse added that there are two different times that Red Lion Road has received funding through the RAC Program, and if good progress is shown it may open the door to future funding. Commissioner McLure asked that if it is because of the signed Schedule A (under the Road

Maintenance Agreement) with the Forest Service it means they can subcontract to the Town of Philipsburg. Sara Rouse explained that the Forest Service funds that are obligated for this project will be there, and that the County will bill for reimbursement and pay contractors for the project. She added that this is similar to how the County will handle the partnership with the Forest Service for Road 15989. Commissioner McLure asked if they would be creating a partnership with all entities. Sara Rouse responded that it would be a partnership in loose terms, based on the formal agreement between the County and the Forest Service. Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt asked if the Forest Service plans to provide any equipment for this project. Cameron Rasor responded that they have thought about it and operating something similar to the project on Road 1589. Sara Rouse added that the Forest Service will be able to provide culverts, road crew, and tree fallers. Commissioner McLure asked if this is for this year or if the County has a timeline that they need to abide by. Sara Rouse responded that the timeline is quick, and that there is a big push from their Grants & Agreements team to get this done to ensure the funds are available to be obligated out. Sara Rouse mentioned that the Town of Philipsburg has already had an engineer come out and develop a plan for the rehabilitation for Red Lion Road. Commissioner Hinkle asked why the Town would hire Triple Tree Engineering to come out and do this plan, as it seems like a waste of money. Sam Dennis replied that the Town of Philipsburg was trying to figure out how to correctly bid this project and wanted the additional information. Cameron Rasor added that this plan developed by Triple Tree Engineering proposes how to make the whole road a high standard road. Commissioner Hinkle responded that the plan does not do them any good then. Cameron Rasor explained that the plan tells them where to prioritize the \$109K in RAC monies. Commissioner Hinkle added that this is just going to be a band-aid fix. Sam Dennis added that this is a plan to get the road up to the level the engineer has recommended, and that it may take 20 years, but they should begin chipping away at it. Sara Rouse commented that RAC has approved two sets of monies to this project and that it would be a good project to continue with. The RAC board has also seen this whole proposal (developed by Triple Tree Engineering) and based on what is awarded the Town of Philipsburg can scale back. Cameron Rasor added that since Maureen Conner was a Commissioner she advocated for fuel treatments in that area, and that it is the only open water source for the municipality. He continued by adding that with the condition the road is currently in they can't even get up there to do vegetation treatment and get equipment to the area. Cameron Rasor explained that this would require some additional work for Commission Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski as far as the administrative side, but it is similar to other agreements the Forest Service and County have done in the past. Commissioner McLure moved to partner with the Town of Philipsburg and U.S. Forest Service in requesting the RAC project funding for Red Lion Road (an amount of \$109K). Commissioner Hinkle asked for a timeline to ensure the work gets completed by the end of the year. Sam Dennis responded that he thinks the Town of Philipsburg would be able to contribute some matching funds to hire a contractor and then utilize this money to fix the road. Commissioner Hinkle asked if the County could use their Road & Bridge Crew. Sam Dennis responded that if the Town of Philipsburg is able to hire the County to do some work they would as the Town will oversee the actual work to be completed on Red Lion Red. Commissioner Hinkle then seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the

motion passed unanimously. Sara Rouse added that she is waiting for some final information from the Town of Philipsburg and then she will work with Billie Ann Kulaski and Sam Dennis and go from there.

BRANDON PARRET, DAM TENDER'S REPORT, GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; The lake level was reported at 6428.64 feet; 10.32 inches below full pull, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to leave the outflow as is, at 6 CFS, as allowed by the FERC Order in place. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Hinkle commented on the amount of rain and how badly the County needs more precipitation to get the lake level up.

SECOND AMENDED MOU - OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS; The Commission reviewed the amended MOU for the Opioid settlement with Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals and their local distributors (class action lawsuit which included Montana counties, including Granite County, and the State of Montana as Plaintiffs). Commissioner Hinkle motioned to sign the amended MOU. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH FLINT CREEK HYDRO LLC WITH JUDGE MCLEAN; Commissioner Adler explained that this Agenda item has been tabled, since mediator, Judge McLean (former district judge in Missoula), did not call in and the County has not received a written offer from Flint Creek Hydro LLC. The matter of the on-going negotiations will be an on-going agenda item. The County does acknowledge it may be a few weeks before the formal, written offer comes from Flint Creek Hydro LLC, but there are no guarantees. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw mentioned (via phone) that he has been working to secure an expert who may be able to assist the County. This will be on the agenda for further discussion next week. Still working on this and it will be on the agenda again next week. The name of the expert will not be released until there is an agreement due to litigation strategy.

GRANITE COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD UPDATE; The Commissioners were joined by Granite County Airport Board Chairperson, Ernie Fulk to discuss the Riddick Field Project in Philipsburg. Ernie Fulk explained that the diagram he has provided to the Commission captures the overview of the direction for the airport project at Riddick Field. He added that there will be a CAD drawing prepared from KLJ Engineering that will show more detail. Ernie Fulk walked the Commission through the proposed updates, explaining that there is a new layout for the hangar space which complies with the requirements of the FAA. This is an issue that the Riddick Field Airport is having at this moment. Ernie Fulk explained that rather than tearing down and moving the hangars they will slowly push them back as hangars need to be replaced or if their lease expires. They are also proposing to transition the overhead powerlines into an underground line. Ernie Fulk commented that he has heard concerns from people that they are worried about the airport becoming bigger, but that they are not. The runway is staying the same size, it is just being replaced and the new construction will be added where windsock is. He also commented that everything has now

been recorded correctly with the Courthouse and the DNRC, as there were previously caught errors. Ernie Fulk added that when working with the DNRC they mentioned that the County has purchased some property located by the City Park in Philipsburg from a federal agency that wasn't allowed to see that property back in the 1960's. Commissioner Hinkle asked when the final plan will be ready. Ernie Fulk responded that he is hopeful that it will be ready within a month and asked for approval of the direction they are headed in.

Commissioner McLure asked about the previous issue with the runway lights staying on. Ernie Fulk explained that it is a faulty switch that will cost approximately \$35K to replace, and it is something that will then be re-replaced after the Master Plan is approved, which means they could potentially waste \$35K. He went on to state that he routinely resets the switch to combat the issue. Commissioner Adler asked about the Drummond Airport and any maintenance that is necessary to the area. Ernie Fulk responded that they just cleaned up at the Drummond Airport, but they will need to do the mowing. Commissioner Adler responded that the Road Department can do the mowing at the Drummond Airport.

Commissioner Hinkle asked if since there is to be a terminal in the future plan it would mean there would be security for the Riddick Field Project. Ernie Fulk responded that it would not, the terminal is basically just an office with a computer for people to get out of the weather rather than just sitting and waiting it out in a plane. Commissioner Hinkle then asked what would prevent the FAA from implementing security at a future date. Ernie Fulk replied that there are different classes of airports and Riddick Field is far from meeting the class requirements where they would have security. The FAA has to approve the Master Plan and AOP and after they approve all of that they can't come back later.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking what economic benefit the improvements the Riddick Field Project will have on the County as a whole. Ernie Fulk responded that it provides an additional means of travel for tourists, which only accounts for part of the reason. He added that the improvements are not being done for economics alone as they are mainly being done because of the safety issues that need to be tended to so the airport isn't shut down. Ernie Fulk also added that the airport provides a medical benefit, enabling life flight's fixed wing plane to land here. Elena Gagliano responded that she doesn't think it is for tourism and that it is just for private planes. She added that as far as emergency response, the County already has life flight helicopter landings. Ernie Fulk responded that the helicopters land, but a PC12 is what will land out at the airport, and this is used to transport patients usually for specialized service.

Ernie Fulk then asked for approval on the iteration of the document he provided to keep everyone on the right track. This will enable the Airport Planning Committee and Airport Board to take this and roll this up into the master plan. Ernie Fulk added that none of this is in concrete, however he wanted to make sure the Commission is on-board with the direction. Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the updated plan as a guide to the final plan

for the Riddick Field Project. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

TOWN OF DRUMMOND MAYOR GAIL LEEPER TO DISCUSS HOLDING JOINT SESSION MEETINGS; Granite County Mayor, Gail Leeper joined the Commission to request they convene Joint Session meetings between the Towns and the County. She stated that it has been a long time since they have had one, and as she sat in on the Commissioners sessions today there were a lot information she identified that all parties would benefit from sharing, focusing on projects and ARPA funding. The Joint Session Meetings were held quarterly which means the next session meeting would be held in June if they were to begin having them again, and would be held in Bearmouth. The Commission reviewed that the meetings would be held at Bearmouth, Georgetown Lake, Philipsburg and Drummond. The County would handle the agenda and minutes for the sessions in Bearmouth and at Georgetown Lake, and each of the Towns would host their session. Commissioner Hinkle commented that he won't be attending the session at Georgetown Lake because no one shows up for it, making it a waste of time. He went on to state that he drives to Philipsburg and residents at Georgetown Lake can drive down here just as well. Commissioner Adler recommended that the next session be held on June 16, 2022 at the Chalet in Bearmouth. Mayor Leeper will be reserving the space, and the County will develop and post the agenda.

NRCS GRANT UPDATES; In a previous session (April 12, 2022) local rancher, Clark Ward had called in during public comment to discuss the NRCS grant program allowing for homeowners of Black Pine Meadows to utilize funds to fire mitigation. He explained to the Commission that funds under the NRCS are intended by law for ag producers and not for people with million-dollar homes. Commissioner Hinkle stated that he agrees with Clark Ward, and that these residents are getting federal dollars to make private land fire proof, so they can just let the federal lands burn. Commissioner Adler commented that the people moving to the area should be aware of the area they decided to live in. Commissioner McLure asked what the Commission can do about this, stating that this has nothing to do with Granite County. Commissioner Adler responded that he thinks Clark Ward is just asking for the County to support him. Commissioner Hinkle added that these monies should go to something that has an economic benefit for everyone and not just a homeowner. Commissioner Adler added that he sees the frustration of the monies being used to clean up timber around an expensive home. Commissioner McLure asked, "well what do we do, the concerned parties need to get together and take this to the NRCS." Commissioner Hinkle recommended writing a letter. Commissioner Adler suggested to have this item on the agenda again the following week and to see if Clark Ward could join the Commission to see how they could be of support.

FINAL COMMENTS ON MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPEED STUDY; Montana Department of Transportation completed a speed study on Highway 1 near the intersection of Black Pine Road, as requested by the Commission. The County has been soliciting public comment for the past few weeks and has only received one comment from Elena Gagliano, a resident on Black Pine Road. Public comments are due to the

Commission on May 3, 2022 so they can submit final comments to The Montana Department of Transportation. Commissioner Adler voiced concern over the issue, stating the speed needs to be reduced in that area. He went on to explain how difficult it is going to be to change the speed limit in the area, after the speed study has recommended no change. Public comment was received from Elena Galiano stating that she has talked to neighbors to try and get comments into the County on the issue, and they have said it wouldn't do any good. Commissioner Adler stated that they need someone to go to the meeting and represent the area. Elena Gagliano replied that she will go and she will hold the State accountable if someone does dies at that intersection. Commissioner Adler commented that he went and looked at trying to improve the view from the approach, and there isn't a good option. Elena Gagliano added that it would be a good idea to move the signs. Commissioner Adler commented on the large trucks that will be hauling in the area. Commissioner Hinkle added that when the big trucks are pulling out onto Highway 1 there isn't anywhere to go. Elena Gagliano stated that Black Pine Road is too narrow for some of these large trucks that are used for hauling. Commissioner Adler requested that the County solicit some more comments on the matter. Commission Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski stated she will use the comments the Commissioners made today to draft a letter for them and have it on the agenda the following week (May 3, 2022); as well as solicit further public comment from other agencies and the public. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw commented (via phone) that he would assist with the letter.

GRANITE COUNTY V. CHARLES RICHARD KOMBEREC, GENERAL RELEASE; The Commission reviewed the general release with Mr. Komberec. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to sign the general release with Mr. Komberec. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Adler signed the release. As there is a settlement agreement, the County, through the Granite County Attorney, will file a motion to dismiss Granite County's lawsuit against Mr. Komberec.

The meeting adjourned at 12.13 p.m.