

**September 27, 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 DES Coordinator, Jackie Bolster; Dave Kesler of Kesler Kustom Shops; Healthy Granite County Network Director, Kayla Sanders; Representative Eric Kohr with GOVOS STR Solutions; Granite County Sheriff, Scott Dunkerson; and other members of the general public including Elena Gagliano**

**BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for September 20, 2022 Commissioner meeting. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE;**

**The September Newline newsletter from the Montana Department of Transportation was received.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT; Public comment was received from Director of Healthy Granite County Network (HGCN), Kayla Sanders, requesting to install a fax line into the office space HGCN utilizes in the Granite County Courthouse. The Commission agreed that HGCN could add a fax line that would be accessible to their office, and that HGCN would maintain responsibility for paying for the fax line. Kayla Sanders also discussed the office space the group is transitioning to inside the Courthouse, and asked if they could install temporary walls within the space to enable them to see more clients. The group discussed how HGCN has been expanding and the services they offer to the community at no cost. Commissioner Adler suggested that HGCN look into utilizing other office space in the Courthouse rather than installing walls. The Commission discussed some of the available spaces in the Courthouse that HGCN could potentially utilize. Kayla Sanders explained that the space they have usually works well, and there is one day a week that they struggle, and thanked the Commission for supporting them.**

**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 across the County including blading in the Middle Fork and East Fork areas. Paul Alt added that the Road Crew is also blading the road that goes around Georgetown Lake toward Echo Lake to assist those familiar with the area to commute during the road closure on Flint Creek Pass. Paul Alt explained that there**

is a tree that has become a problem on Rock Creek Road and the Department is having tree trimmers come out and knock the tree down, then the Road Crew will complete the clean-up. This will cost approximately \$2,500.00. The Commission agreed that hiring a professional service was the better and safer option for the tree removal. Paul Alt added that a new transmission is being installed into his vehicle, which is no longer under warranty. The truck currently has 140,000 miles on it and the estimate to replace the transmission is \$5,200.00. The Commission requested an update on materials. Paul Alt explained that the salt loads that were ordered for the winter season are still coming in and all of the sand has been received. Commissioner Hinkle asked for an update on the road on the Ross's Fork that the Department recently completed maintenance on. Paul Alt explained that the Crew did a lot of ditch work and prioritized problem spots on the road, focusing on the corner that residents in the area were concerned over. Commissioner Hinkle asked for an update of potential openings in the Road Department. He responded that it is his understanding that there will be three potential openings next year in the Department. Then the group discussed the difficulties that they have had getting anyone to apply for the temporary opening that was recently advertised. Commissioner Adler commented that he spoke with Fish, Wildlife & Parks and that they will not be providing any money for dust abatement this year, but that he is going to follow up again.

The group discussed the Middle Fork Gravel Pit, as the DNRC has implied that if something is not done with the pit prior to the end of 2023 that they will not be renewing the County's permit. Commissioner Hinkle asked for an estimated cost to crush gravel. Paul Alt responded that it would cost approximately \$7.00 to \$8.00 per yard to crush, and that the County should plan on spending around \$100K. He added that this would save money in the long run, explaining how the gravel from the Middle Fork Pit would be utilized to service roads on that side of the County, saving fuel costs for hauling in addition to the County saving on the purchase of gravel. Commissioner McLure inquired if BARSAA funds could be utilized on this project, looking at the next fiscal year (FY2024). Commissioner Hinkle suggested using money from PILT, then utilizing the BARSAA funds to spread the gravel. Paul Alt asked that a decision be made on this project sooner rather than later to allow for time to coordinate the operation. Commissioner Hinkle asked if gravel could be crushed this winter. Paul Alt responded that he thought it could be, but that he is going to need to look into things further. Commissioner McLure discussed the budget process and the County creating a line item out of PILT for the funding and then doing a resolution to reflect the adjustment. No decision was made other than Paul Alt would look into it and is going to provide the County with ongoing updates on this matter.

**IUOE LOCAL NO. 400 ROAD UNIT AGREEMENT TO EXTEND FOUR-TEN HOUR SHIFTS;** During the previous weeks session (September 20, 2022) the Commission discussed the Road Crew extending their four-ten-hour shifts until the weather changes, requiring the five-eight-hour shifts. The Commission had authorized Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw to reach out to IUOE Local No. 400 Representative Craig Davis to request an agreement. The agreement was reviewed by the Commission. Commissioner McLure motioned to accept the agreement with IUOE Local No. 400 Road Unit to extend four-ten-

hour shifts to end this fall at the discretion of the Commission. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2022-11; A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION REQUESTING DISTRIBUTION OF BARSAA PROGRAM FUNDS; FIRST READING;** The Commissioners reviewed Resolution 2022-11; and requested that the resolution verbiage be updated to include the total amount of BARSAA funds being expended rather than the itemized amounts. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw agreed with the requested changes, which will be reflected in the second reading (October 4, 2022).

**BRANDON PARRET, DAM TENDER'S REPORT, GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW;** The lake level was reported at 6427.97 feet; 18.36 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner Hinkle moved to increase the outflow to 30 CFS as required by the FERC order. Commissioner Adler commented that the increase will help to support the irrigators downstream. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

**KESLER KUSTOM SHOPS, DAVID KESLER WITH AN UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS;** Dave Kesler of Kesler Kustom Shops joined the Commission to provide an update, explaining that he is working on wrapping the Courthouse Dome and as soon as the project is completed he will move onto the Padded Cell Project at the Granite County Jail. Commissioner Adler commented that Sheriff Dunkerson would like to have that project done quickly once it is started to disrupt jail operation as little as possible. Dave Kesler explained that he understands the importance of timeliness for the Padded Cell Project, and that he plans to complete most of the work at his shop and then bring the material in to install to limit the amount of time a portion of the jail would be under construction. He added that it may be necessary to do a change order to implement a door (ADA compliant) which would support the project installation and bring the jail into ADA compliance. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw commented that the ADA regulations supersede the historic building regulations, pointing out the importance of the County's current ADA focused projects. Commissioner McLure asked for an update on the Justice Court project. Dave Kesler explained the original plan was that this would be a weekend project as the noise it would create to fabricate the platform would interrupt daily business, and has now transitioned more to an after-hour's project due to personal reasons. Dave Kesler added that he is still waiting on the piping for the Parking Barricade Project. Commissioner Adler asked that the focus be placed on completing the Dome and then moving onto the Padded Cell Project.

**RESOLUTION 2022-9; A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION INCREASING THE COUNTY'S ROAD FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AND ACCOUNTING FOR UNANTICIPATED REVENUE RECEIVED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021; FIRST READING;** The Commission reviewed the proposed resolution. Commissioner

**McLure moved to adopt Resolution 2022-9; A Granite County Resolution increasing the County's Road Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Accounting for Unanticipated Revenue Received During Fiscal year 2020-2021. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. The Commission signed the Resolution.**

**AREA V ON AGING CONTRACT MODIFICATION; Public Health Assistant, Jackie Bolster explained the modification to the Area V on Aging contract which provides an additional \$2K to their operating budget. Jackie Bolster explained that the program is currently supporting 26 people and they are continually receiving referrals, which prompted them to hire another Aide. Commissioner McLure motioned to accept the Area V Aging Contract Modification. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. The motion passed two to one with Commissioner Hinkle dissenting.**

**GOVOS STR SOLUTIONS FOR SHORT TERM RENTALS; Eric Kohr joined the Commission to explain the services offered by GOVOS STR, and stated that the goal of the exchange was to learn more about the County's goals in regard to short term rentals, and how GOVOS STR can support those goals, and if it is a good fit they can arrange a demonstration. He added that there are 178 short term rentals in Granite County that charge a daily average rate of \$233.00. The Commission explained that this would be a better service for the Towns to look into, and that the County has no jurisdiction over the Towns; then provided contact information for the Mayor of Philipsburg, Daniel Reddish. Eric Kohr took the information and thanked the Commission.**

**Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano stating that most of the short-term rentals in the County are concentrated around Georgetown Lake which is part of the County and not part of the Towns.**

**RELIANCE TELEPHONE – PHONE/ IPOD / IPAD / VOICE CALL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY FOR INMATE SERVICE AT COUNTY JAIL; Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw explained that the Granite County Jail is already utilizing Reliance for the iPad service and that the Sheriff has been happy with their service, and wants to transition to Reliance for all telephone and other technology services for inmates. Commissioner Hinkle raised concerns that this might be pampering inmates too much at potential cost to the County. The group discussed how this service has assisted the Dispatcher / Jailers to manage inmates in the jail by using the iPad access as a privilege that can be taken away. The entire cost of the program falls on the inmates who pay to use the phone, iPad, and texting services, etc., with a portion of the cost being paid back to the County. Commissioner McLure moved to approve the Reliance Telephone Agreement with the County for Inmate Service at the County Jail. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. Granite County Sheriff, Scott Dunkerson joined the Commission following the motion and explained the benefits of the Reliance Telephone System and how much easier it is to utilize than the telephone system the jail currently has in place. Commissioner Adler signed the Agreement.**

**FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION; Follow-up discussion took place from last week's meeting when the Commission discussed the Solid Waste Site and the request to not accept loads 15 minutes prior to closing. Philipsburg Site Supervisor, Jodi Butler sent an email to the Commissioners to clarify the request pertained to Trailer Loads, not everyday garbage. The Commission is going to have this matter on their agenda the following week to discuss further (October 4, 2022).**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.**