

January 14th, 2025

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 Commissioner McLure, Commissioner Adler, and Commissioner Kulaski attending. Also attending was Commissioners Assistant Maranda Williams and Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw, who attended a portion of the agenda items in-person. The session was livestreamed through the Zoom internet-based program available for the public to view the session and provide public 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 Treasurer Ashley Todd, and members of the general public Elena Gagliano.

BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner McLure moved to accept the board minutes for January 7th, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Electronic mail was received from MACO regarding an email from the US Forest Service regarding the latest on grizzly bear status.

Electronic Mail was received from the Department of Transportation regarding funding for bridge repairs/replacement. Commissioners Assistant to reach out regarding grants for bridges.

Electronic Mail was received from Ashley Todd and Blaine Bradshaw regarding the C-Pace Program from Treasurers group around the state and their opinions on the matter.

Electronic mail was received from Slate Architecture of their latest Field Observation Report.

Mail was received from MACo to Commissioner Adler announcing his selection to serve on the Public Lands Committee.

Mail was received from Missoula Electric Co-op of proof of workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano that there were no introductions as far as commissioners go. She assumes Commissioner Paul Kulaski is present, but the way the meetings are set up it's still hard to follow who's talking. In regards to correspondence from Slate (Field Observation Report); she said that should be put on agenda. She mentioned what's behind those walls is kind of scary and the work is being done while the courthouse is open to the public. Regarding MACo; she commented that the Commissioners should take interest in it. They have a lot of good training and she doesn't know the last time a commissioner attended one. Commissioner McLure said she went the annual MACo Training and it was noted in minutes months prior to the training. Elena

Gagliano said that she meant as far as the training was concerned for MACo and that Commissioner McLure does step up to the plate but the other two commissioners should get involved.

Carol Bohrsen joined the commissioners for Public Comment and updated them that the District Court Office is getting desks from the Department of Corrections and it's still in the works. She suggested they would like to paint their office as well. With Ryon Covington (TCS) here working, they'd like to get a bid from TCS and would use the \$20,000 (LATCF to each office) they have to use for their department. Commission said that this painting could come from County building fund.

Treasurer Ashley Todd plans to paint her office and had originally planned to do it herself but if TCS Northwest (local contractor working on County Courthouse elevator project) is doing other offices that he would be happy to do a bid for her office as well. Ashley Todd is hoping to do it in March due to motor vehicle being shut down for 3 days for a transition to a new system. TCS is willing to put in a bid for individual offices.

Commissioner Adler mentioned that Ryon (TCS) is working on ambulance shed windows as well. Commissioner Adler said to just get a bid on painting offices and decide from there and where the money comes out of.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT; & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; ROTATING CREW MEMBERS THROUGHOUT JOBS; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt was excused from this meeting as there was maintenance needed on equipment that he was working on-- ABS Brakes locking up and needed to get the piece of equipment to Missoula. He updated commissioners via the phone that all is good with Roads and Solid Waste. Commissioner McLure said a few weeks back it was requested to do snow plow maintenance and checking in to see if anyone went to do that or not. Need to follow up with Paul Alt to confirm.

SOLID WASTE UPDATE; Ashley Todd mentioned how the burn permits were submitted to burn both piles at Solid Waste but waiting on signatures from the sanitarian. Commissioner Adler said it would be a good time with moisture to burn. Ashley Todd said they are ready document wise, just need signatures and approval. DEQ has to authorize the burn. Brought up the working meeting on February 11th which will discuss policy, tax assessment, units per property, and what type of property as well as guidelines for VRBO's, certain types of restaurants, and businesses.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano that she can hear Ashley is making good points. There was a time when there was a solid waste board and there were meetings. People would show up with any problems. On the agenda the way it is now; weekly report solid waste means nothing to the public. People are coming to her (Ashley) to complain and it's a discussion and has to be talked about. Needs to be an agenda item and remote viewing and there needs to be another board for Solid Waste.

Blaine Bradshaw said the working meeting is set for February 11th and the Commissioners are the board members for solid waste district. Discussion was had about people owning homes and running businesses out of them, VRBO's, restaurants etc. Ashley Todd believes the County's Solid Waste Policy regarding number of units to be assessed needs defined better.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6428.55 feet; 11.52" inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. Commissioner McLure moved to stay at 10 CFS which matches the estimated inflows; in alignment with the current FERC Order in place. Commissioner Kulaski. seconded the motion. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

VOCA (VICTIMS ADVOCACY) GRANT AGREEMENT SIGNATURES; Victims Advocate Pennie Pyle joined the commissioners to sign the VOCA Grant Agreement. Commissioner Kulaski moved to approve the signature page. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asking if Pennie is still here and congratulated her on the position and thanked her for doing that. She also asked why her name isn't on the agenda; since she does have a name.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kulaski asked if the "County fee" line item on Granite Disposal's invoice would be discussed at the working meeting on February 11th. Granite Disposal is a private garbage hauling business and does not collect for the County. That confusing line-item fee was going to be taken off per Granite Disposal. Ashley Todd said Granite Disposal hasn't gone over the units he has as part of the cooperative so there was a question as to what that "County fee" line item was actually pertaining to. Granite Disposal is going to have to deal with his customers if they know they are dumping extra, then they'll have to pay for it.

C-PACE PROGRAM (FUNDING PROGRAM FOR LOW-COST LOANS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING PROJECTS, ETC); Carolyn Jones C-Pace Program Manager at the Montana Facility Finance Authority joined the commissioners for this portion of the meeting. She passed out a presentation. This program, established by state law, is the Commercial Property Assessed Capital Enhancements is for energy efficient commercial businesses. It's a financing structure that allows building owners to borrow private sector funds to pay for energy efficient improvements, water conservation improvements, and renewable energy systems. Savings cover the cost of investment and paid back via a special assessment on the property. There was discussion on why the need for counties and Carolyn said because of the assessment lean being filed. Commissioner McLure said to run this program, the County would have to set up Special Improvement District (SID) in the Treasurer's Office through the public hearing and resolution process. It's not something that is going to have to be a daily routine but yet the initial set up will be a bit time consuming.

Treasurer Ashley Todd said it would increase the market value of property in the County and benefits by bringing in more tax revenue.

Blaine Bradshaw said one concern he heard is that potentially these loans set up struggling businesses for failure; to take a such business and give them a loan. Carolyn Jones replied that it's not economic development loan, and the local businesses need to show they have enough monthly cash flow to successfully make those payments.

Blaine Bradshaw asked if the Towns of Philipsburg and Drummond were looking at this but Carolyn stated she starts at the county level first.

Commissioner Adler is against it doesn't feel good about it; he stated that he doesn't understand it. Commissioner McLure moved to accept the C-Pace program and asked Ashley if she has any concerns; she stated she has good resources through other Treasurers offices.

Blaine Bradshaw advised, if making a motion, to moving forward and to draft the resolution of intent for next week's agenda (first reading). Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion.

Public Comment was received from Elena Gagliano said the meeting sound is not good. To the person who presented this was not Kelly Sullivan she asked; Carolyn responded that she is presenting as Kelly had an unexpected event to attend. Elena asked if she was associated with the Headwater's foundation, Carolyn Jones is not and can't speak for Kelly Sullivan's affiliations. Carolyn stated that Kelly was originally on the agenda to be here to introduce Carolyn to present.

The motion carried and passed 2 to 1 with Commissioner Adler dissenting.

COUNTY RESOLUTION 2025-1: A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING DATES AND REGULAR COURTHOUSE OFFICE HOURS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025 Second Reading;

Commissioner McLure moved to accept County Resolution 2025-1. Commissioner Kulaski seconded.

Clerk of District Court, Carol Bohrsen, reiterated that Ashley Todd wanted to close at lunch but we should be a team at the courthouse and would like to support her as a team. Claudette Mills said they don't get as much traffic in their office during the noon hour. Commissioner McLure said they'd have to start the resolution process over again to go to any other offices closing at lunch but Treasurer's Office still can close by statute as have separate authority to do that with staffing issues and other issues. Carol said it's a bad look in the public's eyes to utilize the statute. Blaine Bradshaw said to put it in a budget proposal if it's a staffing issue.

The motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY RESOLUTION 2025-2: A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MILEAGE, LODGING, AND PER DIEM FOR BUSINESS TRAVEL

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025; Commissioner McLure moved to accept Resolution 2025-2. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. No public comments were received, and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY RESOLUTION 2025-3: A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION SETTING DAILY INCARCERATION RATE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025;

Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept Resolution 2025-3. Commissioner McLure Seconded. No public comments were received, and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY CLAIMS; The Commissioners reviewed monthly County claims.

Commission then took at short recess.

The Commission then reconvened their open session. Commissioner McLure moved to approve claims December 2024. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. There were no public comments received, and the motion passed unanimously.

USGS GAUGE; ANNUAL PAYMENT UNDER CONTRACT;

Blaine Bradshaw explained we are required by law to have the gauge below the dam (called the Southern Cross gauge) and share the costs per the agreement with the USGS. Commissioner McLure moved to make the payment per the agreement. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners went into two closed sessions to discuss personnel matters where the employees' privacy rights outweighed the public's right to know.

AWARDING COURTHOUSE ROOF PROJECT BID;

Slate Architecture recommends rebidding of the roof and sent in electronic mail that the County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw read out loud the letter (letter is uploaded onto County's website). Commissioner Adler said the bids weren't set up like they were supposed to be. Blaine Bradshaw said there was some confusion with the bid documents. The statute talks about the lowest reasonable bid; the expectation was that bids would come in somewhat above \$200,000 and the bids were over double that. The bids received are unreasonably high (are not reasonable) and may be rejected. Commissioner McLure moved reject the current bids as unreasonable and to put out the roof project for rebid once the County can work out any remaining issues with Slate Architecture. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. No public comment was received, and the motion pass unanimously.

The Session Adjourned at 12:40 p.m.