

**GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 01, 2009**

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday September 01, 2009. Chairman Michael DesRosier, Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door and Commissioner Tony Sitzmann were present. Chairman Michael DesRosier called the meeting to order. Clerk and Recorder, Glenda Hall was present.

Present throughout the day: Bill Bandel, GC Road Supervisor; Merle Cowell, GC Maintenance/Facilities; Vernon Billedeaux, GC Sheriff Deputy; Kate Salois, GC Treasurer; Diane Anderson, Clerk of District Court; James Laidlaw, GC EMS Director; Larry Epstein, GC Attorney; Michelle Harrell, GC WIC; Della Dubbe, GC Library; Everett Skunkcap, Public; Jerilee Wilkerson, CBDC; Gerald Ebelt, NRMC Board Member; Thane Bedwell, NRMC CEO; Wayne Dusterhoff, GC Sheriff; Jamie Freed, Sportsman Plumbing; Sandi McAlpine, Minutes

8:00 a.m. Review Minutes

8:30 Approval - July 2009 Cash Report

The Commissioners reviewed the July 2009 Cash Report as presented by Kate Salois, Treasurer with a cash total of \$26,396,661.68 for all County funds.

Drivers License	--	\$	5,637.00
A101	--	\$	618,838.24
A2	--	\$	3,800.38
Motor Vehicle	--	\$	101,914.76
Taxes	--	\$	135,029.41
Co Tax Sale	--	\$	0.00
Warrant Collection	--	\$	0.00
MSR	--	\$	0.00
Warrants Paid	--	\$	(3,257,571.02)
Treasurers Disbursements	--	\$	(148,359.33)
County Payroll ACH	--	\$	(101,727.95)
Warrant no gl county	--	\$	0.00
Misc.	--	\$	0.00
TOTAL CASH	--	\$	26,696,661.68

Total cash was derived with the beginning balance of \$29,039,100.19 plus receipts and charges of \$865,219.79 less payments and credits of \$3,507,658.30 to equal the ending balance of \$26,696,661.68. Bank balances were as follows:

Native American Bank	--	\$	74,068.62
Bank of Glacier County	--	\$	83,719.12
Stockman Bank	--	\$	858,629.21

Smith Barney	--	\$	0.00
RBC	--	\$	16,881,853.06
WACHOVIA	--	\$	3,497,041.67
DAD	--	\$	5,000,000.00
Cash in Safe	--	\$	1,350.00
TOTAL	--	\$	26,696,661.68

Commissioner Tony Sitzmann makes a motion to approve the July 2009 cash report as presented by Kate Salois, Treasurer. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door seconds the motion. Motion carried.

9:00 a.m. Department Supervisors Meeting

- Commissioner Michael DesRosier advised he will contact department heads for scheduling meeting times concerning their new budgets. He also spoke about the IRS rules concerning use of county vehicles and county cell phones, some of the usage may be taxable to the employees. Commissioner Michael DesRosier advised the group that Diane Anderson, Clerk of District Court, is the counties public information officer. There is a public meeting at Seville Head Start building tonight at 6:00 p.m. on reviewing the signing of the temporary law enforcement agreement between Glacier County and the Blackfeet Tribe. Commissioner Michael DesRosier urged participation at these meetings by all citizens.
- Clerk and Recorder, Glenda Hall stated the value of 1 mill is currently \$21,022.37.
- Commissioner Tony Sitzmann informed the attendees that Gabe Renville will be tearing down the elevators by the east side railroad tracks. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann asked about the possibility of limiting the liability for N.R.M.C.
- Diane Anderson, Clerk of District Court is concerned about the courthouse parking, and the upcoming work on east Main Street. There is a trial scheduled for September 8th, that may last a few days and parking may be a problem. Merle Cowell has presented a striping plan for the parking lot, allowing more parking spaces. Diane suggested all department heads give the employees a memo to park on the street, by a directive of the commissioners.
- Michelle Harrell, Glacier County Health Department, reported updates on the upcoming flu season, and left laminated copies of health tips to avoid the flu.
- Kate Salois, Glacier County Treasurer, introduced Jacki Boyce as the new employee at the Treasurer's Office.

10:00 a.m. Approval - Stahly Engineering Agreement - CTEP Welcome Signs

Commissioner Tony Sitzmann made a motion to accept the Stahly Engineering Agreement for the Browning and East Glacier Signs, replacing the agreement with Thomas Graham. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door, motion carried.

10:30 a.m. Approval of Extradition Request Letter of L. Epstein

Larry Epstein in to withdraw extradition request, advised he will reschedule.

11:30 a.m. Discussion of Hospital Mill Levy Increase Request of T. Bedwell, NRMC

C.E.O. of NRMC, Thane Bedwell, and NRMC board member, Gerald Ebelt, met with commissioners requesting approximately 15 more mills added to their budget. Clerk and Recorder Glenda Hall advised them the soonest it could be presented to the voters is June, 2010, unless they request a special election, which would be at the expense of NRMC, costing NRMC about \$8500 for postage and labor costs. Glenda Hall advised there needs to be the formation of a committee, to get the correct language on the ballot. Larry Epstein stated that this needs to be posted in the newspaper, giving the public two weeks notice. Thane also told the commissioners he got a verbal bid of \$60,000 for a backup generator, as the one in place isn't equipped to handle their needs. Jerilee Wilkerson with Port authority was in attendance, discussed the possibility of Port Authority purchasing NRMC, pros and cons being discussed.

11:45 a.m. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann made a motion to reschedule the Commissioners meeting in Browning from Tuesday, September 22nd, to Tuesday, September 29th, as the commissioners will be out of town at a Commissioners conference. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rides At The Door. Motion Carried.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Maintenance/Facilities Budget

Merle Cowell was in to discuss the Maintenance budget. Glenda Hall received a copy of the maintenance budget. Commissioners approved a hard cab for the 4 wheeler, used for parking lot and sidewalk maintenance. \$5000 will be moved from line item 360 to line item 940 due to the cost being over \$5000, it's considered to be a capital asset, but if it does not amount to \$5000, the correct amount will be transferred to 200. An additional \$10,000 will be added to line item 360 for the renovation and remodel of the old jail.

2:10 p.m. Sheriff Wayne Dusterhoff spoke about a grant written by Anne Thompson. The sheriff presented a letter that Glacier County has been awarded a grant from The Office of Justice Programs in the amount of \$51,102, to be shared with the City of Cut Bank Police Department. Sheriff Dusterhoff said the funds will be used to purchase tasers and GPS systems. Sheriff Dusterhoff advised he needs to meet with Chief of Police, Jason Abbott, and City Attorney Robert Smith to finalize the paper work. Sheriff Dusterhoff requested payment for the mural to be painted in the public entrance to the new jail facility. \$1500 was approved from PILT to have it painted.

2:30 p.m. Discussion of Retainage Payment to Oswood Construction

Discussion concerning payment to Oswood Construction. Merle Cowell presented the list of items that he feels need to be repaired in the new jail facility that was presented on August 17th, 2009 meeting. There is a punch list that needs to be completed by Oswood before payment is

made. The retainage amount is \$133,308. Jamie Freed, representing Sportsman Plumbing is wondering when they can expect payment on the jail project. The Commissioners stated to her that Sportsman Plumbing will need to contact Oswood Construction, as they are the company that hired them to subcontract. Larry Epstein and Merle Cowell will compose a letter to document the problems that need to be completed or repaired before Oswood receives payment. One of the issues is the cost of the change orders. Copies will be sent to Oswood Construction, LeHeureux, Page, Werner Architecture, and the mechanical engineer that was employed during jail construction.

3:00 p.m. Discussion of County Paper of Record Designation

Glenda Hall, Clerk & Recorder began the discussion with the history of Glacier County designating a County paper of record. In the past, when there were three papers in the county all with different owners the county went through a bid process. Now, since there are two papers owned by the same individual it doesn't seem logical to go through the bid process or continue to pay twice for county advertising. It was recommended that we designate the Glacier Reporter as the paper of record and if the owners feel there is something of significant interest for their other paper they can publish it in the Pioneer Press at their expense. Based on the sworn statements of circulation that were submitted in June the Glacier Reporter is more widely circulated than the Pioneer Press. Larry Epstein, GC Attorney stated that Ms. Hall can not make a recommendation if the statute says we have to solicit bids. In rebuttal, Ms. Hall stated that because they own both papers there is the likelihood that they wouldn't submit a bid on the more widely circulated newspaper. This issue definitely needs more research.

Brian and LeAnne Kavanaugh, Cut Bank Pioneer Press and the Glacier Reporter, were present to advise, by law, Glacier County Commissioners must get bids from two newspaper publications to decide which paper will be the legal paper of record for Glacier County. The Kavanaugh's said the Glacier Reporter has higher distribution than the Cut Bank Pioneer Press. The Commissioners are looking to cut costs and advertising in two papers is not cutting costs at the moment.

Options were discussed. LeAnne quoted some laws that apply to newspaper publication pertaining to County Commissioners meetings, one of which was a 48 hour notice for meetings on the agenda. LeAnne asked the Commissioners if the published notices were to let the public know about pending meetings. LeAnne said she just wants to be sure rules are followed, and it is the public's right, by law, to participate. Brian Kavanaugh offered his input that they are the "Watch Dog's" for the citizens of the county. The Kavanaugh's will get information to the Commissioners with costs, and readership statistics.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. with a motion by Commissioner Tony Sitzmann and a second by Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door. The motion passed by Board vote.

BOARD OF GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael J. DesRosier, Chairman

ATTEST:

Glacier County Clerk and Recorder