

**GLACIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING – PROPERTY TRANSFER TO
GLACIER COUNTY REGIONAL PORT AUTHORITY
TOWN OF BROWNING, CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
Tuesday, September 29, 2009**

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners held a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at the Town of Browning, City Hall conference room. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Ron Rides At The Door and Tony Sitzmann were present. Chairman Michael DesRosier called the meeting to order. Clerk and Recorder, Glenda Hall recorded the proceedings.

Present for the public hearing were: Gail Augare, Deputy Treasurer; Larry Epstein, GC Attorney; Darryl Kipp, Citizen; Steve Barcus, ToB Alderman and GCRPA; Michelle Rides At The Door, Citizen; Gerald Wagner, Blackfeet Tribe EPA; John McGill, Glacier Reporter.

6:00 p.m. Public Hearing ó Property Transfer to GC Regional Port Authority

Commissioner Michael DesRosier gave a general overview of the reason for the public hearing. The hospital was privately run thru the 1970s. Then the property went under the county, but was run by the Northern Rockies Medical Center. Under this agreement the county was only responsible for items over \$5,000. The hospital board at that time agreed to accept \$20,000/year to use how they see fit for repairs and maintenance. Since this time they now want to own the whole property, so that they could be eligible for grants and other funding streams. The county hired an appraiser to appraise the hospital, hoping that the figure would come back lower than what it did (approx. \$750,000). The county is not allowed to give away the property, but we can transfer it to another government entity (GCRPA) that can sell it to the Northern Rockies Medical Center. Taking this action would divest the county of this responsibility.

Larry Epstein, GC Attorney added to the history that since NRMC taking over the hospital they added the clinic, the new senior center (Glacier Care Center), and a small corner that houses the EMS barn.

Commissioner Tony Sitzmann updated us on the stance of the GC Regional Port Authority and they are willing to take on the task of accepting the property and turning around and selling the property to NRMC. This could benefit the GCRPA by offering economic development and by being allowed to own property. It becomes an arm of the government. They could use the gains from this property to develop a revolving loan fund.

There was some discussion on whether or not the facility will qualify for tax exemption, but that is an issue for the hospital board when they take over the property.

Commissioner Michael DesRosier added that this is not the first time the GCRPA has taken county property to divest the county and sold the property, thus getting the property back on the tax rolls. As a parting gift we will negotiate the paving of the parking lot and the generator.

Concerned citizen, Gerald Wagner has requested to go on record in support of this transfer.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a motion by Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door and a second by Commissioner Tony Sitzmann. The motion passed by Board vote.

BOARD OF GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael J. DesRosier, Chairman

ATTEST:

Glenda M. Hall, Clerk and Recorder