

**GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 21, 2009**

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 21, 2009. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Ron Rides At The Door and Tony Sitzmann were present. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door called the meeting to order. Glenda Hall, Clerk & Recorder was present.

Present throughout the day: James Laidlaw, EMS Chief; Amie Allison, EMS Captain; Sheriff Wayne Dusterhoff, Payroll Clerk Diane Proefrock; Merle Cowell, GC Maintenance; Michelle Harrell, WIC Coordinator; Merle Shortman, M&M Iron & Recycling; JoAnn Printy, DOR; Nikki Lako, Minutes

9:00 a.m. Approval – EMS Computer Purchase

James Laidlaw, EMS Chief and Amie Allison, EMS Captain, were present for the approval for the EMS computer purchase. James Laidlaw explained that the EMS crew is using the same computer for all of their reports. The computer would be used for reports, billing and time clock. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door asked James Laidlaw to get price quotes from a couple of companies besides Morris-Maierle, we are currently experiencing network difficulty, get the best bang for your buck. James Laidlaw would like a general server with strict access. James Laidlaw expressed some issues with the current accounts receivable. He stated that they are currently running or have available five (5) trucks. The computer for the medics will need web based software with access to the server, this will enable the medics to do the report and upload to the server. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door recommended that James Laidlaw looked around and get prices from other billing companies. Compare the differences, upfront costs, options, etc. Laidlaw, EMS Chief, requires the medic's reports to be completed and turned in house in twenty-four (24) hours. James Laidlaw added they have two (2) large companies doing the billing for the ambulance. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann asked if the billing is specialized. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door replied yes, there are separate codes to use for EMS. James Laidlaw added that it helps to have a separate company do the billing, it is very detailed.

James Laidlaw asked who could help him with grants. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann said Jerilee Wilkerson, but you need to go thru the commissioners, not directly thru Jerilee Wilkerson.

The computer purchase is going to be about \$400.00 - \$500.00 range. No formal motion is need from the commissioners for the purchase.

9:30 a.m. Approval – Advertising Paramedic Position

James Laidlaw stated that they have only received one resume so far. The applicant is from Tennessee and their qualifications for the position are as expected. The base paramedic wage is low but overtime factors in. The housing market is less here in Cut Bank, Montana. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann suggests advertising the job description including the housing market and the close proximity to Glacier National Park. Another route of advertising would be to use Monster.com or another job search engine. The commissioners all agreed that James Laidlaw advertise the way he thought he would get the best results.

9:50 a.m. Non Agenda Item: Merle Cowell

Merle Cowell, Glacier County Maintenance, came in to get on the agenda for Thursday December 24, 2009. He would like to address the commissioners regarding the NRMC Hospital/Clinic Generator. The estimated cost of the generator is approximately about \$265,000.00 with expenses to total \$320,000.00. Merle Cowell will request a proposal with exact figures.

10:00 a.m. Discussion – Sheriff's Office Sam's Club Card

Wayne Dusterhoff stated that the Sam's Club Card receipts are signed and his department saved money going thru Sam's Club. Commissioner Michael DesRosier told W. Dusterhoff that the commissioners would rather have the card be under Glacier County and have it checked out like

other county credit cards. Dusterhoff replied that the card works like the gas cards and it has a limit to two people with authority to use it. Wayne Dusterhoff advised the commissioners that the card is only valid at Sam's Club and he lowered the limit to \$4,500.00. Dusterhoff asked what the commissioners wanted done with the card. Commissioner Michael DesRosier would like to see the Sheriff's Department open a charge account like other county departments at Office Max, Quill, etc.

Sheriff Wayne Dusterhoff requested hiring Jack Spillman, APCO Spectrum, to do the work regarding the FCC Public Notice on narrow banding. This approval is scheduled for January 7, 2010.

Sheriff Wayne Dusterhoff let the commissioners know that he will be gone on vacation this afternoon until the morning on January 4, 2010. The commissioners and Dusterhoff wished each other Happy Holidays.

10:40 a.m. Non Agenda Item – Jerilee Wilkerson, CBDC

Jerilee Wilkerson stopped in to the DEQ money available for the cities in Glacier County and the county. The scope for the application is for energy efficiency retro fits, to include items like lighting, insulation, upgrade furnaces, etc. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann asked Jerilee Wilkerson to back up and to explain to the commissioners about her meeting with Glacier Electric. Jerilee Wilkerson met with Glacier Electric and she would like to better the relationship between Glacier Electric and CBDC. Glacier Electric funded \$5,000.00 for 2010. Jerilee Wilkerson added that the reservation already qualified for \$200,000.00, all work to be funded has to be retro fits, no new work. She was meeting with the Cut Bank Mayor today and in Browning tomorrow. Wilkerson would like to see Cut Bank and Browning come together as a county and make a list of energy efficiency upgrades and make a presentation.

Merle Cowell stopped in and Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door gave him a quick update of what J. Wilkerson presented. Merle Cowell said he would make a list of items that he knows for the county could use to upgrade to be more energy efficient. Wilkerson asked Cowell to have his list by the end of the week, so if she has questions she would have until December 31, 2009 to get those worked out. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann told Jerilee Wilkerson to check with the museum especially about the two buildings on Central Avenue that the county recently took over.

11:15 a.m. Approval – WIC Pay Raise – Michelle Harrell

Commissioner Michael DesRosier started by justifying a \$4.00 raise. The employee received \$.50 after three months of employment, another \$.50 after a year of employment and each COLA received. Glenda Hall checked with other counties and Breastfeeding Consultants and some coordinators were making around \$16.00 per hour. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door voiced his concern regarding the WIC budget. With the employee's wages at the rate Michelle Harrell requested she would be over budget. Michelle Harrell replied, "Not if I use her as a breastfeeding consultant". Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door stated that the employee is contracted part time. Harrell said "yes, thirty-two (32) hours per month." Commissioner Rides At The Door asked how we as a county justify a \$4.00 raise that puts you over budget. Harrell stressed that she didn't want to lose the employee, and then she would have to retrain. Michelle Harrell asked if she and the commissioners could negotiate an amount for the raise. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door said yes to negotiating, but we need to stay on budget. Commissioner Rides At The Door asked Harrell, "doesn't training come with a job?" Harrell stated that the WIC office has increased from eighty (80) to one hundred thirty (130) participants, she would like to give her a raise, and Harrell doesn't want to lose her. Harrell added that she and her employee are both getting overtime due to calls after hours and at home. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann asked how many hours a month are overtime. Michelle Harrell stated that they are clocking about forty (40) to forty-five (45) hours per month. Recently they have been working with Albertsons with the new food packets and products. This requires training on all levels. Harrell stated that we need to be there for the kids, and we are getting families from Shelby and Browning. Commissioner Michael DesRosier asked Glenda Hall and Diane Proefrock to present the wages of other counties. Diane Proefrock checked with Pondera and Toole counties. Pondera County's Medical Technician works four days a month at \$14.78 an hour and Toole County's Medical Technician works three days a month (approximately

twenty to twenty-four hours) at \$15.79 per hour. Michelle Harrell asked if \$13.50 would be a reasonable wage to agree on. The commissioners agreed that the \$13.50 per hour would be the wage to offer to Kathleen Barbie. Commissioner Michael DesRosier told Michelle Harrell that he appreciates all that she does for the WIC Program and he asked Harrell if she has a way to track the extra work that she and K. Barbie are doing. Michelle Harrell replied, yes and it will be in her reports. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door motioned to approve the WIC pay raise from \$11.62 per hour to \$13.50 per hour. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann second the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Michele Harrell thanked the commissioners for their time and told them she would be bringing in the reports for the commissioners to review.

12:00 pm Lunch

2:00 p.m. Approval – Stonegarden Vehicle Purchase for Sheriff Department

Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door motioned to approve the Stonegarden vehicle purchase for the Sheriff's Department as discussed at the previous commissioners meeting held on December 14, 2009. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann second the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

3:00 p.m. Discussion – M&M Iron & Recycling Taxes – Merle Shortman

Merle Shortman from M&M Iron & Recycling came in to talk to the commissioners regarding his taxes. He spoke with Kate Salois, Treasurer, but he felt like he didn't get the answers he was looking for. Merle Shortman's concern is a piece of property he purchased has old elevators that haven't been in use for many years and the property was appraised at \$160,000.00. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann asked Merle Shortman if he filed an appeal to the Tax Appeal Board. Shortman asked if the county still taxes buildings that are being tore down. The reply from all commissioners was that per JoAnn Printy, DOR, if the building is standing as of January 1st, yes the building will be taxed. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann told Merle Shortman that by statue, he has thirty (30) days to file an appeal. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann left the commissioner's office and went to the DOR to ask JoAnn Printy to join the conversation. JoAnn reiterated to Merle Shortman that if the building is standing as of January 1st, it will be taxed. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door asked JoAnn Printy if the building is condemned, is the building still taxed. JoAnn Printy said yes, however the value is reduced as low as it can go. JoAnn Printy told Merle Shortman that she would double check with her regional manager to make sure that the property that has the condemned elevators on it that the property value is reduced as low as it can go. Commissioner Michael DesRosier thanked JoAnn Printy for coming in and helping explain the property taxes for Merle Shortman. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann invited Merle Shortman to the Northern Refuge meeting in Valier on January 12, 2010 and he reminded Merle Shortman that the taxes are not due until December 31, 2009. Merle Shortman thanked the commissioners and told everyone to have a nice holiday.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 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 Hall, Clerk and Recorder