

GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Town of Browning City Hall
Tuesday, November 23, 2010

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2010. Commissioners Michael DesRosier and Tony Sitzmann, Glenda Hall, Clerk & Recorder were present. Commissioner Michael DesRosier called the meeting to order. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door wasn't present; he wasn't feeling well.

Present throughout the day: Bill Bandel, Road Supervisor; Joe Rutherford, Tribal Security; Don White, Blackfeet Transportation; Marla Ollinger & Cameron Boggs Jr., Public; Dustin Boggs, Fire Chief for Browning Volunteer Fire Department; Lockley Bremner, Mayor of Browning; John McGill, Press

9:00 a.m. Discussion: Tax Bill – T. Hensley

No discussion took place; T. Hensley didn't show up for the scheduled discussion.

10:00 a.m. Discussion: Cattle Guards – Road Department

Bill Bandel, Road Supervisor gave an update on the equipment-gas account. He requested an estimate from Boyd Evans to install a heater in the East Glacier Shop. The estimate was approximately about \$2,800. If road department ever vacates the lease we can take the heater with us. The road department is having a problem getting in and out due to a problem with the overhead doors and the water heater is also not working.

Bandel shared a list of individuals that have requested emergency road plowing for medical purposes. These individuals are Cecil Conway, Judy Smith, Tony & Amber Little Dog.

Joe Rutherford spoke to the commissioners regarding the councils concerns. The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council (BTBC) passed a resolution appointing Rutherford as the emergency snow removal. He will assist for the emergency snow removal project; he will not lead the project. Rutherford has a list of roads and he would like to know what roads are going to be done, which roads we won't plow and why.

Bandel explained to Rutherford that there are nine hundred (900) miles of road and we have the arterial roads as a priority. If things go smoothly, we should have enough man power to manage these 900 miles. Bandel spoke with Dick Bird about his complaints about getting to elders. Bird was ask why he wasn't out there; he replied that he is waiting for the Tribe to let him know how he is getting paid.

Commissioner DesRosier would like to establish a list of priority roads. We will continue to assist with emergency vehicles. Rutherford added that he met with other agencies to target key personnel and by the end of the day he will get all of us.

Don White, Tribal Transportation stated that right now the Tribe is taxing the state and receiving money to improve roads for the elderly, handicapped, etc. The state frowns on using this money for plowing because it shows no improvement. These funds are supposed to be project specific. Another issue is determining the emergency. Rutherford didn't want to take up too much time and told the commissioner to tell him what roads the county wouldn't or couldn't do. Commissioner DesRosier replied that the county crews will do the county roads and your crews can stay off these roads and only focus on the non county or state roads.

Bandel said that the Tribe got money off of the oil wells, why don't they put some of the funds into a road department. Bandel would be happy to help the Tribe put together an excellent department.

Marla Ollinger explained that she has elderly parents whom are snowed in and needs to know who can plow the road. They need it plowed in order to get a service man out in order to fix their furnace.

White stated what if the county received disaster funds, would the county share the funds with the Tribe. The county replied not unless the declarations go through all the proper channels.

Bandel continued by stating that cattle guards are a pain. He would like to see them all taken out. Those pose a liability to the county. He feels that individuals that utilize cattle guard should be required to get approval from the commissioners and the individuals should be required to pay for them. The cattle guards only save the land owner some fencing.

Commissioner DesRosier reminded those present that county roads that become public access roads, people need to realize these roads can't be fenced to keep people out through the required easement process.

11:00 a.m. Discussion: Browning VFD Fire Hall on County Property

The Commissioners were wondering if we have the blessing of the city council for pursuing the swap of land. Of course there is still grant money and other funding that the county has to go after in order to make the swap possible. The plan is still basic and the county hasn't sought the services of an architectural design. According to a recent conference call that included Commissioner Sitzmann was that fire departments are a high priority.

Dustin Boggs, Browning Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) discussed the budget and the funds they receive from the county. The commissioners will discuss the space at the road yard with the Sheriff's Department.

12:00 pm Lunch

1:30 p.m. Discussion: City/County Summit Meeting

The Town of Browning Mayor Lockley Bremner and the Commissioners discussed the issue of the dog catcher and facilities during this time. The funds from each entity to help fund the dog catcher were as follows:

- Glacier County \$17,500
- School District #9 \$10,000
- Blackfeet Tribe \$0
- Town of Browning \$20,000

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 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