

GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Town of Browning City Hall
Tuesday, April 27, 2010

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Ron Rides At The Door and Tony Sitzmann. Glenda Hall, Clerk & Recorder was not present, she was preparing for the Primary Election. Commissioner Michael DesRosier called the meeting to order.

Present throughout the day: Bill Bandel, Road Supervisor; Rick Gobert, BIA Road Supervisor; Don White, Director of Transportation for the Blackfeet Tribe; Mark McGee, Blackfeet Tribe Natural Resource Director; Byron Stahly, Stahly Engineering & Associates; Less Monroe, BPS Facilities; Mary Johnson, Browning Public Schools Superintendent; John McGill, Press; Jerilee Wilkerson, Cut Bank Development Corporation; Lockley J. Bremner, Mayor of Browning; Joe Rutherford, Blackfeet Tribe; Tom McKay, Blackfeet Housing; Ursula Mattson, East Glacier Women's Club; Nikki Lako, Minutes

9:00 a.m. Discussion: Pending Tax Lien

Commissioner Tony Sitzmann explained that the pending tax lien was for Terry Wellman. Mr. Wellman did not show for the scheduled agenda item. Commissioner Sitzmann explained that according to Kate Salois, Treasurer she contacted the lien holder for Wellman's delinquent taxes. The lien holder had conversation(s) with Wellman. Wellman did go to the courthouse and speak with Glenda Hall, Clerk & Recorder. Hall explained to Wellman that if he paid the taxes and interest the county could recover the property.

Commissioner Sitzmann added that the county has collected approximately \$30,000.00 in back taxes from the collection letters sent out to members of Glacier County that had delinquent tax bills.

9:30 a.m. Discussion: Request for Public Hearing

Wade Swenson requested a Public Meeting for an Opencut Mining Permit for the following land description: Section 17, Township 37N, and Range 9W. The maximum acreage to be mined shall not exceed 4.5 acres. Approximately 14 inches of topsoil will be removed and stored for reclamation. Total gravel removed shall not exceed 100,000 cubic yards. The said permit shall expire on 12/31/2030. Access to the site can be gained off of Boundary Road approximately 1.5 miles west of the State Highway 213. Bandel stated that he doesn't see any problems. This would benefit local ranchers and public that utilizes the road. It would also be handy for the border road.

10:00 a.m. Discussion: Bridge Inventory & Road Issues

Don White, Blackfeet Tribe's Director of Transportation presented the commission with a print out regarding asphalt millings from the Marias Pass – East project. Bill Bandel, County Road Department Supervisor recommended using the millings mixed with gravel so it may be used as filler for the Heart Butte cut across road. Commissioner DesRosier asked Bandel if the road department will be able to keep up with the millings that are produced. Bandel explained that after the wind row is in place the road department would get in there and complete the road work. Mark McGee stated that he would help determine the tribe's portion of the road and right of ways for the millings project. McGee asked Bandel if the millings could be "stock piled" somewhere. Bandel explained that they could be stored at the pit on Durham Road. Don White explained that he would like to add that to the agreement.

10:30 a.m. Discussion: Wind Energy Impact Fees

Commissioner DesRosier explained the process of the wind energy impact fees. The highlight of the explanation is that the impact fees can only be distributed to those that have been directly impacted by the wind energy project.

11:00 a.m. Discussion: Browning Public Schools CTEP Project – Stahly Engineering

Mary Johnson, Browning Public Schools Superintendent told those present that the school is open for suggestions regarding the BHS Walking Path. She expressed that the wetlands are an issue and the land across the highway next to Glacier Peaks Casino is privately owned. Mark McGee explained that one of the first steps for this walk path would be to request proper permit(s) and assured that the permit process was simple. Commissioner DesRosier would like to see the school take the lead on the right of ways and help influence the state and tribe. Byron Stahly, Stahly Engineering & Associates stated that the walk path project would not be completed until the spring of 2012. A temporary path was discussed. Also discussed was the safety of the individuals that will be utilizing the path. The goal is to have the pathway lit and have it viewable from the highway. The commissioner's would like to see the pathway as direct route as possible otherwise the kids will cut across and not utilize the pathway. The project will need to be broken out into phases. You cannot co-mingle CTEP funds.

12:00 pm Lunch

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

Browning Mayor, Lockley Bremner presented the commissioners with a projected yearly budget for an animal control department. Bremner explained that the long term goal of the animal control department would be to save animals, especially dogs from being euthanized. We would like to see the animals adopted out to loving and caring homes. Commissioner DesRosier suggested partnering with the Cut Bank Animal Control and correlate an adoption program. The commission suggested to Mayor Bremner to start a board. The commissioners would like to set up a meeting with the board (once formed) and Joe Gauthier, Cut Bank Animal Control Officer. Commissioner Sitzmann stated that the new board will need to start looking for grants to help with funding. Joe Rutherford would like to see the animal control board create a policy in order to hold the pet owner accountable. All of these issues will be further discussed as the process moves forward.

2:00 p.m. Financial Request: East Glacier Women's Club

Ursula Mattson, East Glacier Women's Club expressed to the commission that their building needs windows. The EGWC has done some fund raising, but it isn't enough. Mattson presented the commissioners with a handout that explained their repair and maintenance needs. Commissioner DesRosier stated that because the building has some historical value, it may qualify for CTEP funds. This will be looked into and the information forwarded to the EGWC. Commissioner DesRosier stated that the commission would like to help the East Glacier Women's Club with a sign. He asked Mattson to get some ideas for the sign. On June 23, 2010 the commission will be meeting in East Glacier. The East Glacier Women's Club will present their ideas at this time.

2:30 p.m. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door motioned to approve the following minutes: 3/15/10, 3/18/10, 3/23/10, 4/1/10, 4/6/10 and 4/19/10. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann second the motion, all members of the commission in favor, motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 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