

**GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM, BROWNING  
Tuesday, July 27, 2010**

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2010. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Ron Rides At The Door and Tony Sitzmann were present. Commissioner Michael DesRosier called the meeting to order. Glenda Hall, Clerk & Recorder was not present, she was in Cut Bank at the Clerk & Recorder's Office.

**Present throughout the day:** Bill Bandel, GC Road Supervisor; John McGill, Press; Lockley Bremner, Browning Mayor; Dustin Boggs, BVFD Fire Chief; Willie Morris, Browning City Manager; Ron Ladue, Pikani Action Team; Larry Epstein, County Attorney; Carolyn Brown, Deputy County Attorney; Nikki Lako, Minutes

**9:00 a.m. Discussion/Approval: Consolidation of Polling Places – Clerk & Recorder**

Clerk & Recorder, Glenda Hall had previously discussed the request of consolidating the polling place for Precinct 19 (Starr School) to the CCD Center in Browning with Precincts 8, 9, 12, 13 and 21c. The reason for the request is that the Starr School elementary school will be in session during the November election and they could not commit the building for elections. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door motioned to approve to hold a public hearing to consider the consolidation of the polling place for Precinct 19 (Starr School) to the CCD Center in Browning with Precincts 8, 9, 12, 13 and 21c. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann second the motion, the commission was all in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

**10:00 a.m. Discussion: Town of Browning Infrastructure for Animal Control Building**

The Browning Mayor, Lockley Bremner asked about help with funding for the city infrastructure. As previously discussed, the commission would like to help with the funding for infrastructure. It will be on the agenda for approval on August 3, 2010. Commissioner DesRosier added that the funds will be taken out of P.I.L.T.

**10:30 a.m. Discussion/Approval: Town of Browning Repair/Maintenance for BVFD**

Commissioner DesRosier spoke briefly about the county working with the state requirements in order to properly fund all of the volunteer fire departments (Browning, Cut Bank, East Glacier Park, Babb & Del Bonita) in Glacier County. The county would like to develop a formula in order to fund each volunteer fire department fairly. The formula should include statistics such as number of man hours, structures, number of fires, etc. Mayor Bremner asked Willie Morris, Browning City Manager to research the budget from years past for the volunteer fire departments in Glacier County. After reviewing the 2009 budget Morris reported that the county paid CBVFD \$40-45K with approximately 3100 fire calls, EGVFD \$42K with approximately 390 fire calls, Babb VFD \$28K with approximately 690 fire calls, DBVFD \$25K, BVFD \$12K with approximately 4900 fire calls for the year. With approximately 13,000 fire calls in the county in 2009 Browning responded to about 40% of the calls. All the Town of Browning and the Browning Volunteer Fire Department is asking is for the formula to be fair when determining how much each of the counties volunteer fire departments. Glacier County DES is currently working with all departments in gathering data for the county record keeping requirements.

Commissioner DesRosier thanked Morris and Dustin Boggs for the work and effort in gathering data to help create a fair formula. Morris stated again that Browning isn't asking for millions, just that the amounts be fair and created thru a fair formula. Commissioner DesRosier briefly stated that when he was on the Browning Volunteer Fire Department they held fund raisers to help raise money to defray costs.

Morris asked the commission about the \$60,000.00 claim for repair and maintenance for 2009 & 2010. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door explained that the claim didn't get turned in on time and the books have been closed for FY2010. He continued by telling the BVFD that each entity is responsible for turning in the necessary documents in order to receive the funds that are obligated to that entity. The commission is going to continue their discussion regarding to the \$60,000.00 and check with Clerk & Recorder on the amount. Commissioner Rides At The Door

told the BVFD that the commission has held other claims for the same reason. Morris asked about “back paying” in order for the BFVD to receive the funds from FY2009 and FY2010. The commission explained that would be discussed and researched, they would advise them of their decision.

Commissioner Tony Sitzmann stated that we should check with other counties and volunteer fire departments to see how they distribute funds equally and what formula(s) they use to do so. The formula should include all of the different aspects of fire calls, number of man hours, what kind of fire, the size of the fire, etc.

The commission discussed having the fire hall on county property. They recommended that Fire Chief, Dustin Boggs start looking for grants to help fund a new fire hall or to help in moving the existing fire hall to county property. Also discussed was the possibility of a traffic light that would be triggered by the fire department when dispatched to a fire call.

Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door motioned to table the approval for the Town of Browning Repair/Maintenance for BVFD in order to have more time for research. For further discussion, Commissioner Rides At The Door requested from Willie Morris to check with Charles Farmer, DES Coordinator and once they had collaborated to get on the agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann seconds the motion, all in favor, the motion carried.

Browning Mayor, Lockley Bremner told the commissioners that at the last Town of Browning council meeting the council approved to set the new “Welcome” signs. It would be in-kind utilizing man power and equipment. The commission thanked Bremner for the help in getting the signs installed. Commissioner DesRosier reminded Bremner to double check the specs before installing the signs. Bill Bandel will drop off the specs at the Browning City Hall.

#### **11:00 a.m. Discussion: Pikani Action Team**

Ron Ladue, Pikani Action Team asked to discuss with the commissioners the possibility of “breaking the ice” during the “Meet & Greet” on January 29, 2010. Commissioner DesRosier explained to Ladue that the “Meet & Greet” was not designed for a public forum. It is more to establish a good government to government relationship so the two can work together in positive way.

The discussion started with the topic of enrolled and non enrolled tribal members. Larry Epstein, County Attorney explained to Ladue that the tribe has joint jurisdiction with the state. There is no cross Deputization, no commission card and no agreement. Epstein recommended to the commissioners to approach the tribe and have them include the state in the extradition agreement including the attorney general. Commissioner Rides At The Door stated that he supported the extradition topic however there needs to be fine details to include that we support their efforts. Commissioner DesRosier added that the Blackfeet Tribe is ready to move forward and we are going to work together with them to create the best solution for all of Glacier County’s residents on and off the reservation.

#### **12:00 pm Lunch**

During the lunch hour the commission had a closed session with County Attorney Larry Epstein and Deputy County Attorney Carolyn Brown to address personnel issues.

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

During the morning agenda items the commissioners along with representatives from the Town of Browning discussed the topics of interest. As previously discussed, the commissioners invited the Browning Mayor and City Manager to the Tribal County Summit scheduled later this week, so the summit meeting wasn’t needed. During this time the commission reviewed these issues.

#### **2:30 p.m. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Tony Sitzmann motioned to approve the minutes as presented by Nikki Lako, Administrative Assistant with the additions and/or changes by the commission for 5/26/10,

6/1/10, 6/3/10, & 7/22/10. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door second the motion, all in favor, the motion carried.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 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

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Michael J. DesRosier, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Glenda Hall, Clerk and Recorder

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