

GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION:
Glacier Peaks Casino Conference Room – Browning, MT
Thursday, July 29, 2010

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 29, 2010. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Ron Rides At The Door and Tony Sitzmann, Glenda Hall, Clerk & Recorder were present. Commissioner Michael DesRosier called the meeting to order.

Present throughout the day: Bill Bandel, GC Road Supervisor; Jerilee Wilkerson, CBDC; Sarah converse, Sweetgrass Development; Vernon “Napi” Billedeaux, Sheriff Deputy; Carolyn Brown, Deputy County Attorney; Janice Coburn, BCDC; Paul McEvers, Shannon Augare, TJ Show, Henry Butterfly, Peter Tatsey, Jay St. Goddard, Willie Sharp, & Jay Wells, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council; Mark Magee, Tribal Transportation; Donald Little Dog, George Calf Tail, Cheryl Little Dog, Majel Russell, Public;

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Meeting – Government to Government Orientation. Open Dialogue. Welcoming New Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

Those present for the Glacier County & Blackfeet Tribe Business Council Summit meeting all introduced their selves. Following the introductions, Henry Butterfly opened the summit meeting will a prayer.

Commissioner Michael DesRosier began by briefing the group on the county’s role as far as statute goes. DesRosier touched on roads, law enforcement, senior programs, water, extradition agreement(s), and the county’s role with passing issues through the attorney general. The county’s primary role is to serve the constituents and manage the budget being as fiscally sound as possible and providing services.

Glenda Hall, Clerk & Recorder explained the budget process for Glacier County and the funding streams. Joint funds, PILT, overall make-up of the county compared to the tribe. She continued by stating that the Clerk & Recorder’s office is equivalent to Tribal personnel, documents, finance and enrollment.

Blackfeet Tribe Business Council member, Shannon Augare, spoke on the state of Montana’s role and balancing budgeting initiatives. He explained that the goal of the BTBC’s long term goal is to keep the economic development and the funds in Indian country.

Willie Sharp, Jr Tribal Business Council Chairman stressed the need to resolve the jurisdiction issues, land use, acquisition, taxation, and special magistrate court closer to the reservation for those whom get ticketed in Glacier National Park. Jay St. Goddard added that this meeting today is a foot print into our future. Councilman Jay Wells thanked the commission for inviting him and the rest of the BTBC to this meeting and he looks forward to working together.

Commissioner DesRosier spoke on the tax issue. This issue has troubled Glacier County and the Blackfeet Reservation for years and it’s time to resolve the issue. DesRosier also commented that the weed controversy is not an Indian weed or a white weed, they are weeds and we need to get rid of them.

Vernon “Napi” Billedeaux, Incumbent Sheriff addressed the law & order issues. There are no commission cards at this time. If there is a crime committed, somebody needs to take responsibility. This needs to be addressed properly in order to please both the Blackfeet Tribe & Glacier County. Councilman Paul McEvers told Billedeaux that he had a complaint from a family in Seville that feels they are being harassed. McEvers was going to get a copy of the complaint to Billedeaux.

Glacier County’s Incumbent County Attorney Carolyn Brown proposed extradition agreement. She explained that Glacier County will give someone up to the tribe if Glacier County has them in custody. However, Glacier County needs the blessing of the Attorney General. She concluded that the Attorney General needs to be included in every aspect of the extradition agreement.

Lunch

Summit Reconvened:

The introduction of fee to trust land issues began the afternoon discussion. A brief history of trust land issues was broken down. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door spoke of meetings with Dan Bucks, Montana DOR (Department of Revenue) and his personal experiences in fee & trust land issues. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann explained that the tax deed process and the county is not taking on tribal properties, but the county would be powerless to prevent an individual from paying. When there is a tax deed done in the county, the tribe has to put up the funds to redeem these lands. Commissioner DesRosier stated that Glacier County is on record as supporting legislation to put this matter to rest. Majel Russell spoke of a zoning restriction agreement with managing county lands, fee vs. trust and the need to develop a scheme of land use.

Chairman Sharp asked the status of road projects. Glacier County Road Supervisor explained the use of the gravel pits to help get a pit run on at lease the west side ¼ mile. Nelcon Construction has the road contract and there will be a pre-contract meeting to address and schedule the work. Sharp addressed concerns about emergency calls out in Babb during the winter months. Commissioner DesRosier responded that the commission had meetings in Babb and has worked out this concern. The emergency call volume during the winter months doesn't warrant keeping a full-time paramedic in Babb all year.

The Blackfeet Tribe Business Council and Glacier County Commissioners plan to continue working together to get the issues at hand resolved and to move forward in a positive direction for all the constituents of the Blackfeet Tribe and Glacier County.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 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 Hall, Clerk and Recorder