

**GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 11, 2011**

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, April 11, 2011. 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 present.

Present throughout the day: Briana Wipf, Press; Lyle Salois, Maintenance Supervisor; Carolyn Berkram, County Attorney; Vince Sullivan, Raenelle Johnson, Nancy Kraft, Ralph Johnson, Raylee Johnson, Ken Luther, Steve Nelson, Roman Johnson, Dan Geer, James Evans, Richard Monroe, Guy Meiwald, Dick Schock, John & Margie Weathered, Jody Hickey, Wayne Hibbs, Vincent Michael, Beau Michael & Patty Geer, Public; Nikki Lako, Minutes

9:30 a.m. Discussion: Gas Tax

Commissioner Michael DesRosier started by stating that the commission is going to move forward thru the process to implement the gas tax in Glacier County. Public hearings will be held in both Cut Bank & Browning. DesRosier is going to double check but he thought that the only vote required is that of the Commission, he is going to have the county attorney check into that. Clerk & Recorder Glenda Hall read the statute (Motor Fuel Excise Tax 7-14-301). Briana Wipf of the Pioneer Press asked the commission how much the gas tax would be. The commission replied 2 cents per gallon. Hall did some checking and the gas tax would have to go on the ballot. She is interested in possibly doing a special mail-in election. Commissioner Sitzmann stated that since it has to go out to a vote

10:00 a.m. Discussion: County Auction

The county needs to clean house, started Commissioner DesRosier. Hall told the commissioners that road supervisor Bill Bandel expressed some interest in going out for RFP for the auctioneer. He wants the auctioneer to stay at the auction until all of the items are picked up and paid for. The commissioners are going to do some checking on different auctioneers.

10:15 a.m. Non-Agenda Item: Maintenance Department

Maintenance Supervisor Lyle Salois expressed his concern about his budget. The Glacier Care Center (GCC) has hit his budget hard this year, a couple of times. He was contacted about a water heater at the GCC that is not working and needs to be replaced. Salois is going to get the request in writing, meanwhile get a plumber up to check out the situation.

10:30 a.m. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door motioned to approve the minutes as presented by Nikki Lako, Administrative Assistant for 3/17/11 & 3/31/11. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann seconds the motion and with no further discussion needed the motion carried.

*Commissioner Michael DesRosier notified the Commission that he'll be out of the state from April 12 – 17th on personal business.

11:00 a.m. Discussion: Road Issues – Vince Sullivan

The commissioners updated County Attorney Carolyn Berkram on the road department's plan to make the "path" to Vince Sullivan's farm a road that meets the state's requirements. Hall asked if there needed to be public hearings since they are adding to the existing county road inventory. County Attorney Berkram replied that no public hearings were necessary; however it will need to be approved thru a resolution. Commissioner Rides At The Door urged Sullivan to record the documents that he presented to the commission. County Attorney Berkram asked what Bill Bandel's thoughts were on the new road. Commissioner DesRosier said that the county would do the road; it just won't be completed until next spring/summer due to scheduling. Sullivan will get the documentation recorded to help move the process forward.

11:20 a.m. Non-Agenda: Jerilee Wilkerson, Economic Development

Jerilee Wilkerson, Economic Development & Transit Coordinator officially turned in her letter of resignation to the County Commissioners. She and her husband have been offered a chance to help manage a local business. She suggested last day of employment will be April 29, 2011. She is willing to help train the replacement. Commissioner Sitzmann added that he is the business opportunity and Deb Brandon from Toole County Transit is willing to help with Glacier County Transit until a replacement is found with the possibility of the local transit organizations in the area becoming a regional transit system. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they need to advertise for the Economic Development position. Commissioner Sitzmann stated there is the issue to consider whether Glacier County needs the position. The commissioners agreed that the county needs an economic development coordinator. Commissioner Rides At The Door also mentioned the fact that the individual selected will be qualified in grant writing and other specific areas of expertise. The commissioners discussed their concerns regarding Sweetgrass Development and whether it is a beneficial program for the county at this time. A frustrated Sitzmann stated that the county needs a positive economic development to help the county grow and have a positive repercussion. Both Commissioners DesRosier & Rides At The Door wished Wilkerson luck on her new endeavor.

12:00 pm Lunch

1:30 p.m. Discussion: Road Issues – Ralph Johnson

*Walter Barry called in to let the commissioners know that he was unable to attend the meeting today; however, he fully supports Ralph Johnson with his road requests. He stated that the road is more like a trail.

Raenelle Johnson started the road issue discussion that before their house was built they had requested to have the road built. Vince Michael has the right of way with that road connecting with the existing road. BIA has turned over the maintenance of this road (BIA Road #13) to the county.

Commissioner DesRosier told those present of discussions that the county has had with BIA and the possibility of trading roads. There hasn't been a formal agreement; it is still in the discussion stages. Also discussed were the wind direction and the best direction to build the road. The commissioners agreed that using the wind to our advantage. Commissioner DesRosier explained to the Johnson family that Bill Bandel Road Supervisor is out of town on family business. The county is certainly willing to work with BIA to help improve the road. The county is willing to take over the road. Before that can happen the BIA has to formally turn over the authority to Glacier County. Commissioner Rides At The Door explained that Terry & Gene Matt have gone thru a similar road situation with the BIA and they were successful.

Vince Michael explained that he is working on retaining the right of ways on the existing road, there is a gravel pit out by Rumney Ranch that can be utilized and BIA is not claiming the road (3 Bar C). Raenelle Johnson added that the BIA has stated they turned over the road to Glacier County. If that is the case, get BIA to put that in writing replied Commissioner DesRosier. We want the roads that are maintained by the county to be in tip top shape. Once the issue of who's responsible for the road is worked out and it is officially a county road, we'll get it on the maintenance schedule. The Johnson family spoke of a fire that occurred a couple of years ago and no emergency personnel could respond due to the road condition, they were thankful for the snow that helped put the fire out. Commissioner DesRosier reminded the Johnson's to get the BIA to put in writing the road is given to the county, acquire the easements, rights of way, contracts, etc. Once we have that information we'll have our legal department review and move the process forward. John Weathered praised the road department for their hard work and great job keeping the roads open and maintained!

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

Michael J. DesRosier, Chairman

ATTEST:

Glenda Hall, Clerk and Recorder