

GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Glacier Peaks Casino Conference Room, Browning
Tuesday, October 11, 2011

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at Glacier Peaks Casino's conference room in Browning for a summit meeting with the Blackfeet Tribe Business Council at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2011. 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, Road Supervisor; Rusty Tatsey, Henry Butterfly, Reis Fisher, Blackfeet Tribe Business Council; John McGill, Press (Councilman TJ Show is gone on travel to Denver, CO)

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Summit Meeting

The summit began with discussion regarding East Glacier Park streets. BIA went in and did Rita Street. Commissioner Sitzmann doesn't think they rolled it, but it is pretty deep to drive on. Sitzmann would like to evaluate the East Glacier Park fire hydrants.

County Road Supervisor, Bill Bandel gave an update on the road purchases for this fiscal year. He would like another tractor with a mower. If it is ok with the Board he would like to have Huggy Bear Hughes pursue finding the county this piece of equipment. He will update the commissioners at their next meeting.

MATL was discussed on the evaluation and both boards are in consensus that DOR value got 0% and any re-assessment will be a windfall to the county and distributed in accordance with the approved mills.

Commissioner DesRosier along with Commissioners Rides At The Door & Sitzmann would like to clear the air on any misunderstandings and come up with a plan to serve the people with their best's interests. The first issue was gravel. Glacier County hasn't been in a tribal pit for at least six (6) weeks. SK Construction must have hit a spring in there because it has been filled with water. Bandel says we crush up on top away from the water.

The county road department is up at Dan Geer's pit only because it cut off thirty (30) miles of drive time for the trucks. We are tearing down and would like to move back to the Meriwether pit. The original cost analysis was a 6:1 ratio (for every year of gravel we get six yards of pit run). Mark Magee, Tribe backed this up by saying the Tribe is getting a fair deal. The basic 6:1 deal is fair. What people don't look at is all the other things that Glacier County does like running gravel to all the special projects, Stampede Park, Headstart, etc. uses county trucks, gas, manpower and how do you account for that. Bandel also asked that when special projects are planned that all parties involved be more prepared and have all the details arranged. Commissioner DesRosier replied that the county needs to make sure that they stay off of private roads. We hear about it from the East end of the county. Councilman Butterfly spoke of incidents that they BTBC heard complaints from people that are reporting the county trucks coming from tribal pits. Commissioner DesRosier stated that there are lots of trucks that are not county that also come from the Meriweather Road pit and on the Governor Aronson Road that are hauling. They look similar to the county trucks. This is the first time he was made aware that our trucks have scales. We should be putting something in the paper so the people know. There is just no communication. Butterfly knew there was some kind of agreement, but he didn't know what it was. The Commission agreed that would be a good idea to make sure we get better reporting and informing the constituents as to the happenings in the county with roads. Commissioner Rides At The Door added that the county has outreach meetings in East Glacier Park and Babb. At those meetings the Commissioners take that opportunity to listen to the people, but the attendance is still very scarce. Councilman Butterfly commented that he will catch flack about his private road that is being built up so he can get in and out of his house in the winter.

The BIA has produced an ownership book on the roads. It is pretty comprehensive and a good starting point. Bandel would like to see the county adopt this document. He urged the Councilman to request a copy of this book, review it and let the county know what they think.

Councilman Tatsey brought up the price of gravel versus pit run. Bandel replied that the raw product versus the finished product this year is 1,000 tons per day.

The next discussion was on the road damage caused by these oil companies. The county couldn't charge, but the tribe could charge a damage deposit (impact fee) to the oil companies so there's funding available to reconstruct the road once they leave. This is the topic of the meeting in Denver that Councilman Show is attending.

The discussion went to oil and gas on fee land. Clerk & Recorder Glenda Hall explained that the leases are filed in the Clerk & Recorders office, but until the company sells the oil, it isn't considered a completed well. With that they don't to submit production reports to the state.

Councilman Butterfly asked Bandel about the knapweed and when is the best time to kill it. What other precautionary steps can be taken to eliminate knapweed. Bandel explained that the county sprays year round, but we can only stay on the roads. You can spray in the spring, but you have to take a proactive approach and pull it before it goes to seed. When it gets to seed you have to spray the entire plant and a fifteen (15') foot perimeter around any patch. The county is experimenting with bugs. In the late 1980's there was a mechanical removal approach where people were paid by the pound when they picked the weed and brought it in.

Delinquent taxes were discussed next, the delinquent taxes on land owned by individuals. The Blackfeet Tribes tax issue is a separate deal between the state and the tribe. We've been forced to get together on the tax collection issue. They may have done some people a disservice by making deals with them. The Commissioners and Hall answered questions regarding taxes and the proper procedures. The Board explained the county's status of the War Bonnet and Johnny's Supper Club and where Glacier County stands with these two (2) pieces of property. Hall added that the right of redemption period expires prior to the next sale, twenty-four hours before auction.

Clerk & Recorder Hall briefed the group on the make-up of Glacier County; budgets, employees, compensation, insurance, school districts, etc.

Discussion took place regarding cemeteries and explained that the West End Cemetery is the only one the county funds. East Glacier Park and Babb has been helped by the county.

Commissioner DesRosier began to wrap up the summit by expressing the need to continue keeping the lines of communication open and continue working together. Councilman Fisher spoke about the cross-deputization and would like to see these efforts continued. Commissioner Sitzmann spoke briefly about the expansion of the Town of Browning's city limits. Hall explained elections and precincts and the benefits and the negative aspects for the community. The discussion went back to the gravel pit agreement. Since the Tribe is allowing the County to return to the Tribal pit both parties agreed to do a formal agreement. The BTBC is going to take action on a resolution in support of the agreement. Councilman Fisher inquired about 444 Meriweather Road and which portions of the road are highway and county. The only section that is Glacier County's, is the gravel portion. The Meriweather Road is a priority and will be on the States books as a county priority in their ten year plan. The overpass project has pushed all other projects back. Now with the overpass in progress the hopes are to see the other projects within the county to move back to the forefront. The last item of discussion was the possibility of naming the new bridge. Bridges are usually named after individuals that died in office, which would pertain in this situation.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 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