

GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Town of Browning City Hall
Tuesday, January 25, 2011

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 25, 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: Vernon “Napi” Billedeaux, Sheriff; Maurice Redhorn, Under Sheriff; Tom Seifert, Sergeant; Ron Ladue, Marjorie Glatzmaier & Katie Bremner, Pikuni Action Team;

9:30 a.m. Discussion: Update on Pikuni Action Team

The Pikuni Action Team didn’t show up at the scheduled time; however see 2:30 p.m. for the discussion.

10:00 a.m. Discussion: Sheriff Department – Vernon Billedeaux

Sheriff Vernon Billedeaux would like to request to hire another deputy. He presented the commissioners with a statistics report. The Sheriff’s Department is going to continue applying for grants and vehicle programs with maintenance and replacement schedules.

Billedeaux discussed the possibility of separating out the jail with its own fund or break it out on the revenue side to more clearly track what activities are being funded by patrol, detention and dispatch. He has had discussions with the Federal Marshall on housing their federal prisoners as another revenue source. Also, the department needs to examine our vehicles. They put on large amounts of mileage annually, so will need to replace a couple this year. The department has had good luck with the company out of Illinois. This is what the guy specializes in and we get the vehicle completely outfitted. To order locally, we still have to put approximately \$10,000 addition to equip the vehicle, so we just can’t beat the deal we are getting. Commissioner Rides At The Door asked if they could get a small two (2) page report on strategic plan that stretches out two to three (2-3) years. Clerk & Recorder Glenda Hall would like to wait until they review the budget. Each deputy costs approximately \$55k (including salary & benefits). The agenda for February 1, 2011 will have the approval to hire an additional deputy.

11:00 a.m. Approval: T Hensley Abatement of Personal Property Tax Penalty & Interest for 2007-09

The commissioners had previously discussed the abatement of personal property tax penalty and interest for Teri Hensley for the years of 2007 – 2009. Per a prior discussion with Treasurer, Kate Salois this was the fault of Glacier County, therefore Commissioner Tony Sitzmann motioned to approve the abatement of the accumulated penalties and interest on the Teri Hensley personal property taxes for the tax years of 2007 – 2009. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door seconds the motion, and with no further discussion the motion carried. It was re-iterated that this abatement is on interest and penalties, ONLY! We are not abating the assessed tax.

11:30 a.m. Approval: Highway 2 Association Annual Membership Dues

Commissioner Tony Sitzmann motioned to approve the Glacier County annual membership dues to the Highway 2 Association in the amount of \$100.00. Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door seconds the motion, the motion carried without any further discussion.

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 p.m. Audit Exit Conference

According to Brent Olness of Olness & Associates the draft copy of the schedule of findings and questioned costs for Glacier County is NOT a public document. This is per the contract between the Department of Administration (DOA), Olness and Glacier County because it isn’t in final form. Glacier County Attorney, Carolyn Brown stated that she called other counties and they were surprised that we get a “draft” copy. Brent Olness replied that this gives the county (mainly

C&R) a little more time to compile and submit the necessary response, so that it becomes a part of the final audit report. With that the call moved to the findings in the draft report. Items 2010-1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 26 are repeat prior year findings that need more improvement. Findings 2 and 4 are common to all county entities per GASB112. Finding 3 deals with the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) per GASB45 and the recommendation is to contract with an actuary to define any implied liability. Finding 8 it is recommended that there be one central location for all grants. Finding 10 coincides with finding 8 and there needs to be follow up with the Treasurer's office when a draw down request is submitted that the grant file gets closed out with an A101 receipt. Finding 11 needs timely adoption, follow up and monitoring. Finding 12 is a repeat from the prior year on the Justice of the Peace monthly reconciliation, but requires a software upgrade that is not likely to happen anytime soon, so the alternative is to establish fund #7905 and deposit daily, then closeout monthly with the Treasurer. Finding 14 was for the Treasurer to do at the end of the year and it didn't get done. Finding 15 is a repeat from the prior year and the recommendation is to develop a pre-numbered form requiring signatures at the different levels of approval. Finding 17 needs procedures developed between the Clerk & Recorder and the Treasurer to ensure that this task gets accomplished on a monthly basis. Finding 21, 22, 23 and 24 go with finding 7 and 11 on timely adoption, follow up and monitoring. Finding 25 should be done on an annual basis by resolution. This sets the annual assessments for the special improvement districts (SID's). Finding 27 and 28 relate to grants awarded to Glacier County by U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Transportation and that finding 2 and 4 applies to these federal award programs. Commissioner Sitzmann inquired how we fit into the scheme of things. Mr. Brent Olness replied that there needs to be more work on the budget with better monitoring.

2:00 p.m. Approval of Minutes

The Commissioner's administrative assistant was not present for today's proceedings. The minutes will be approved during the next agenda on February 1, 2011.

2:20 p.m. Non-Agenda Item: Glacier County Attorney, Carolyn Berkram

County Attorney Carolyn Berkram asked the commissioners to be considerate when moving her office; she has two (2) big trials coming up. She also gave the commissioners a copy of a fax she received on water/sewer damage suffered by the Tribe. Commissioner DesRosier spoke briefly on the lease with NRMC. The commission wants to responsibility for repairs and maintenance. NRMC is getting the \$300k from the Mill Levy as passed by the tax payers of Glacier County.

2:30 p.m. Pikuni Action Team Update (originally scheduled at 9:30 a.m.)

Ron Ladue, Marjorie Glatzmaier & Katie Bremner were present to give the commissioners an update from the Pikuni Action Team. Bremner would like to resurrect the cross deputization agreement with the tribe. The small area off of the reservation has all of the law enforcement. Commissioner Tony Sitzmann stated that the deputies are on the reservation everyday and they are here to help and provide assistance. Bremner's reply was that yes they are available but they can't do anything. Commissioner DesRosier added that the Glacier County Sheriff's Office at this point is available to provide assistance. The general feeling is that anything can be thrown out if the tribe doesn't like it. The overall feeling is that everyone wants the same thing; it's just a matter of how we get there. Glacier County and the Blackfeet Tribe can enter into agreements but the Attorney General has to approve. Commissioner Rides At The Door stated that the tribe won't come to the table with the county, so we are going to them in numbers so we can force their hand. We will have a commissioner and a representative from the Attorney General's office to present it to the tribe.

Further discussion was held on the audit exit conference and the request to release the "draft" document. Commissioner DesRosier asked if anyone objected to releasing the document. There was no objection, so a copy will be made available the next day. Clerk & Recorder, Glenda Hall pointed out that this becomes an issue each year and the findings are all procedural in nature, so next year lets notify the auditors not to issue a draft of the findings. And since this matter gets blown out of proportion each year the Clerk & Recorder's office will be adding an information request policy to the Accounting Policies and Procedures manual.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 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 M. Hall, Clerk and Recorder