

GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Town of Browning City Hall
Tuesday, April 26, 2011

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 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; Don White & Laura Conway, BIA Transportation; Bob Newbreast; Chancy Kittson, Blackfeet Housing; Jerilee Wilkerson, Economic Development; Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development; Harry Barnes, Blackfeet Advanced Technologies; Carolyn Berkram & Kim Czech, County Attorney's Office; John McGill, Press;

8:45 a.m. Non-Agenda: Road Department – Bill Bandel

Glacier County Road Supervisor Bill Bandel discussed with the commissioners the county auction. We've been using Buckley and Bandel would like to give the contract to a local auctioneer. The county hasn't been very satisfied with Buckley's Auction Service. He packs up and leaves the county to load up and get rid of the sold items. This should be included in their service. Hall added that there is only one auctioneer in Glacier county that their aware of. She doesn't see a problem with offering the contract to them. All agreed to give the contract to a local auctioneer, Steve Proefrock. Bandel will contact and make the arrangements. The commissioners will let the department heads know about the auction during the department head meeting May 3rd.

9:00 a.m. Meeting: Blackfeet Housing – East Glacier Streets

Don White, BIA Transportation introduced Ms. Conway and explained some of her work she'll be doing once she is hired. The Commission updated White & Conway on CTEP project(s) specifically the bike path. Clerk & Recorder Hall looked at a preliminary total cost for the bike path including paving. The Tribe is waiting for more public input for more ideas for CTEP projects. They have set a deadline of May 1st to gather this input. Commissioner DesRosier brought up the safe paths to school project which could fund a bike/walking path from Bed Rock to the Babb School. The school has to initiate the grant, but both parties (Blackfeet Tribe/Glacier County) are willing to pitch in.

Commissioner DesRosier stated that the county would like to do something with the East Glacier streets. The county cannot foot the whole the bill. There are different options to take and explore. For example form a SID (Special Improvement District), direct financing, etc. We need to get started with the Public Hearing process. Road Supervisor Bill Bandel explained that the way it was done in Lewistown is to get 51% buy-in from the homeowners. They pay for the project as a fee on their tax bill. Chancy Kittson, Blackfeet Housing clarified that Housing has nothing to do with the East Glacier housing units. They receive no funding, subsidies, rent, etc but they would like to help if they could. White explained the BIA process and those they don't want to take over roads that they didn't build. White's office could assist by completing the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement), preliminary engineering design.

The current plan for the Tribe is to use the millings from the summit project. Bandel educated those present on what "dirty" millings mean. Basically you're working with a failed product and need to add materials back into the mix in order to get another five (5) years out of the material. White told the Commissioners that his crews are beginning their elder assistance road improvements for the summer and appreciate any assistance the county has. Bandel was agreeable to fixing the road but would like to know who has ownership when it's done. Playing the devil's advocate Hall stressed the financial impact on Bandel's road budget adding 15-20 miles to the county road inventory.

9:30 a.m. Discussion: P.I.L.T.

Clerk & Recorder Hall explained what PILT is and that it is a commission discretionary fund that does supplement roads, sheriffs, and fire departments. Kittson asked what formula is used to

fund the fire departments. Commissioner DesRosier explained that they are trying to create a fair formula. They have asked that all of the local volunteer fire departments submit budgets, reports on number of calls, etc in order to properly calculate a fair formula. A very detailed and informative discussion on fire departments role, budgets, expansion of city limits, etc. All entities agreed that they all the same end result and agreed to share resources.

10:00 a.m. Public Hearing – Community Development Needs & Economic Development

Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development & Jerilee Wilkerson, Economic Development Coordinator for Glacier County briefed all on CDBG and that two (2) public hearings are required.

A proposal from Depot Coulee Wild Turf Golf Course was received. The proposal doesn't qualify for funding at this time, mainly due to the required 1:1 cash match and has create jobs and retain employees.

Mr. Harry Barnes came in as the General Manager of the Blackfeet Advanced Technologies. He presented a proposal for equipment used/developed for a Department of Defense project to help develop a prototype for Lockheed Martin. He is asking for financial assistance so that they can go into a commercial manufacturing of both fiber glass and carbon based custom products. He got a \$200k loan from the Tribe and he thought that would carry them thru to commercial production. They have run into some ancillary problems and he has had to use \$160k + on the new machine to address fire hazard issues. Barnes currently has two (2) customers. This is only part of their revenue streams. He is searching for other sources of funding, free funds first, grants, low interest financing. He would like to get 150 certified, intense, but required for defense contracts. Barnes would like \$50k for training. Approximately 8-9 employees start at \$12.25 per hour including medical, 10 paid holidays, and 10 personal days. He is currently working with Manpower to transition their clients. Converse will check if the Tribal loan will count as a line of credit for a one time hand out.

11:00 a.m. Discussion: IT Position

Commissioner Rides At The Door presented the need for the county to hire or contract an IT person. He has nothing against Morris & Maierle, but with the amount the county pays them he thinks it would be about the same amount to pay an individual here locally to do the IT work. Hall was concerned that the county wouldn't be able to find someone to do that line of work for that wage. Commissioner Rides At The Door believes that the position could be a part-time position. Hall responded that even with a part-time position the county could still end up with the cost of the benefits, but thinks that it would be good to have the service right away rather than wait and pay the additional travel charges. Commissioner Rides At The Door argued that having the position here locally would save the county money and have local services. They agreed to put a position description together and advertise with an expected start date of July 1, 2011.

11:30 a.m. Discussion: Glacier County Attorney Office Space

County Attorney Carolyn Berkram presented a letter from Larry Epstein on the building that the county attorney is currently occupying for \$500 per month. Epstein is raising the rate to \$1,000 per month to help cover taxes, insurance, utilities, etc. Commissioner Sitzmann asked Berkram how she felt about the county purchasing the building that she currently is renting. Berkram has been preparing to move for over a year now, so she would like to get it done if moving is the final decision. Berkram and her secretary Kim Czech provided a list of problems with the building they are renting from Epstein. Commissioner Sitzmann requested to be on the agenda for the next meeting (May 3, 2011) for approval of the final decision whether it's renting the building, buying the building or moving into a different building. Hall suggested that Berkram have a building contractor go thru her office building and give the county an estimate of what it will cost to bring the entire building up to code.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 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