

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

The Board of Glacier County Commissioners met at a regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 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:** Lockley Bremner, Mayor for Town of Browning; John McGill, Press; Sandra Watts, Blackfeet Legal Department; Dustin Boggs, Browning Volunteer Fire Department Chief; Gerald Wagner, Solid Waste; Mary Claire Weatherwax, Mike Hannon & Dixie Guardipee, Browning Public Schools; Don White, Laura Conway & Mark McGee, Blackfeet Tribe; Terry Voeller, MDT; Byron Stahly & Arne Wiebe, Stahly Engineering & Associates; Nikki Lako, Minutes

**10:00 a.m. City/County Summit**

Commissioner Michael DesRosier opened the City/County Summit by explaining that this time is to work with other local governments in a positive and productive manner. Sandra Watts from the Legal Department for the Tribe mentioned that it would be a good idea to assign tribal employee to represent the tribe for these summit meetings. Recent discussions at the city/county summits have been dog catcher program, fire departments, budgets, local government, schools, etc.

Mayor Lockley Bremner stated that last year the county helped fund the animal control department for the Town of Browning. He asked if Glacier County would be putting funds toward this program for this year. Commissioner Sitzmann added that last year the county funded \$17k for the program to help get it started. Bremner explained that the program is covering the entire reservation within the county from Seville, Browning to Babb. The commissioners would like to be sure that the other entities continue their support of the program. The dog catcher for the program is Jerry McNeely. The program is a no kill program and he works to pick up stray females in order to get them spaded.

The recent CEDS meetings were productive. The Cut Bank meeting was the best attended. Also discussed was the possibility of expanding the city limits of Browning. The townspeople feel like their rights are being violated when it comes to voting, town council, etc. Watts would like to continue discussions regarding the cross commission for law enforcement. The town of Browning would benefit more from CTEP if the city limits were expanded. Commissioner Sitzmann asked Watts if the Tribe was against the expansion because of a sovereignty issue. Watts replied that she had never heard that accusation before. Commissioner Sitzmann urged Watts to approach the powers at be to move forward on an agreement. Watts added that with an expansion would come in more funds and the county seat would possibly be moved to Browning. Governor Schweitzer urges government to government relationships. It would strengthen the tribe's sovereignty, stated Commissioner DesRosier. Watts continued that there was no backlash over the county deputies being sworn in for Indian Days. It was a nice ceremony. The Commission would like to continue working on a permanent agreement.

During the summit was discussion regarding properties in trust and the economic barrier that makes for the possibility of new businesses, boosting economic development, county tax deeds. Watts was primarily at the summit to discuss the War Bonnet. The commissioners added that Johnny's Supper Club was also up for a tax deed. Watts primary reason for attending today's meeting is to discuss the War Bonnet. She asked what the tribe can do and if the Commission is able to eliminate penalties and interest if they paid the back taxes. Commissioner Rides At The Door explained that the commission can only make exclusions for new property owners starting a business. The county collects the payments for the State of Montana. The taxes need to be paid in full. Commissioner Sitzmann added that the county is not interested in these properties; the commissioners want the properties back on the tax rolls.

The commissioners look forward to working and collaborating with the tribe. Watts expressed the same gratitude towards future meetings. She is going to urge the council to have a representative present for future summit meetings.

\*Commissioner Tony Sitzmann left the chambers at 11:00 a.m. for a conference call with Hi-Line Recovery.

**11:00 a.m. Discussion: Fire Department**

The Commissioners met with the Browning Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dustin Boggs to review the budget for the new fiscal year. The main area of concern is the cost increase in fuel.

**12:00 pm Lunch**

**1:30 p.m. Discussion: CTEP Project: Browning High School Pathway Project**

Commissioner DesRosier gave a brief overview of CTEP. Mary Claire Weatherwax did an assessment of the extent of the wetlands which is actually 240 feet from the fence. Concluding that option three (#3) would work best.

Those present discussed liability. It hasn't ever been an issue in twenty (20) years of CTEP, but if something ever happened it would be the end of the program. Mark McGee inquired about the easement. Les Monroe replied that he will have the engineer prepare the paperwork for recording. Wiebe, Stahly Engineering & Associates will prepare the aquatic levels protection ordinance permit and submit it to the Tribal EPA.

There being no further business for the day, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. with a motion by Commissioner Ron Rides At The Door and a second by Commissioner Michael DesRosier. The motion passed by Board vote.

BOARD OF GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Michael J. DesRosier, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Glenda Hall, Clerk and Recorder