

Glacier County Commissioners
Tuesday, July 9, 2019
Regular Meeting
Browning, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular meeting scheduled meeting at 9:00 am Tuesday, July 9, 2019. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay and John B. Overcast was present, Melanie Heavy Runner taking minutes.

Present at the Meeting: Kerry Nickou, Glacier Acres; Tauna Evans, EMS; Mike Wikstrom, Glacier Acres; John McGill, Press; George Running Wolf, Blackfeet Environmental Water Quality Tech; Marty Woolf, West End Cemetery; Nick Whitcomb, West End Cemetery.

Meeting Called to order @ 9:05 am

- A. Roll Call**
- B. Approval of Agenda:**
- C. Reading of the Minutes:**

OLD BUISNESS

D. Discussion: Mercantile Demo Status-Amy Overstreet, Cut Bank Chamber

Commissioner DesRosier stated that they were going to have an open discussion at Thursday's meeting in Cut Bank.

NEW BUISNESS

E. Discussion: Heart Butte Cut Across Road-Mike Wikstrom/Glacier Acres

Mike Wikstrom stated that Patricia Compton gathered all that was need to turn over to County. He then presented the Commissioners with copies. He also stated that he got right of way from Angela Conway and Mickley, he will bring to the courthouse to have filed. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they will take it to the County Planner. Mike stated that there is a certificate of survey in the packet. Commissioner DesRosier stated that the planner will do a big certificate of survey that they all sign off on. Commissioner DesRosier also stated they will accept what he has today to be recorded, they will talk to the County Attorney when she comes in to see if this is all that is needed and will also talk to Loretta as well.

Commissioner McKay motions to accept petition to take easements/right of way of Glacier Acres, from US Highway 2 approximately 1.5 miles, upon completion of filing of easements; Commissioner Overcast seconded; motion carried.

Commissioner DesRosier stated that the packet included easements, right of way & certificate of survey.

F. Discussion/Approval: Treasure Vacancy-Mike Kittson, GC Human Resources'

Mike Kittson stated that Treasurer Don Wilson had 2 employees leave. They had advertised in house and only had one person apply so that still leaves us with one vacancy. One moved and the other got another job offer, so he is down to a thin crew. He stated that today he was here to ask the commissioners if they want to fill the vacancies, we need people in there and he does have the money in his budget. He also stated that they need to be long term and have a finance background. Commissioner DesRosier agreed.

Commissioner McKay stated that we are looking at furlough and we did do one in house. Commissioner McKay motions to approve the hire of a full-time employee for the Treasurer's office.

Commissioner Overcast stated that he can see a lot of feedback because of the furloughs. County Attorney stated that no matter what we are going to get feedback. Mike Kittson stated that's when they need to look at essential and non-essential and that he has to look out for the best interest of the county. County Attorney stated that they asked all departments and only had one person, she also asked if they evaluated departments to see how busy they were. Mike Kittson stated yes and they had workers from the Library helping in the Treasurer and Clerk & Recorder's office. He also stated that he didn't do immediate fills even with the Sheriff's office until the officer shooting and it took his back up 15 minutes to arrive, he is very liberal on back filling vacancies. County Attorney stated that the recommendation for the furlough came from Chancy and Magda not the state they are just following. Mike Kittson stated that they would be talking about it this afternoon.

G. Discussion/Approval: EMS Vacancies-Mike Kittson, GC Human Resources

Tauna Evans stated that they have been working 24 hours 7 days a week with 5 employees, now they are working four ten hour days and are starting to face burn out. Each employee works 40 hours plus their 56 call hours which is paid at \$1.25. On the scheduling for 1 week the highlighted areas are not filled. They have had 28 calls which 12 were 911, 5 hospital, 7 were cancelled which they cannot bill for, 8 were due to no crew and 8 were taken. They have 2 employees who have graduated nursing school and may move on. Mike Kittson stated that the CFO, Tauna and Rita worked on evaluation on how valuable it is to Glacier County. CFO can see it build revenue if it is ran right and billed properly. Mike also stated that Tauna don't let it go, the reports are done every day. They have not back filled position because of the budget. Right now they have 6 fulltime employees which one is at Babb. He is unsure of what they want to hire, paramedic, basic or an advanced EMT. Going to work with CFO and Rita to look at budget to analyze and make determination of program budget.

Commissioner Overcast made motion for Human Resource and EMS to determine vacancy post and designation of full time, part time and seasonal; Commissioner McKay seconded; motion carried.

County Attorney stated that she understands the I.H.S is supposed to respond this week. There was some discussion on the auction which is happening from July 2 thru July 23

and can be viewed at Belgrade Online Auctions. Commissioner Overcast asked if they put an advertisement to the public and if they got flyers to hang up. Commissioner DesRosier asked John McGill to put it in the article the auction items are available. He also suggested buying an advertisement in the classifieds.

H. Closed Session-Personnel Issue-Mike Kittson, GC Human Resources

Closed Session @ 10:57 am

I. Discussion: West End Cemetery & St. Michael Cemetery Water Issues/Expansion/Funding/Environmental Issue-Blackfeet Tribal Business Council/Blackfeet Environmental/Commissioners

Agenda items I & J were discussed together. Commissioner DesRosier stated that he got a couple of call backs from the Council and they are busy today with their general council session. George Running Wolf, Water Quality Tech from Blackfeet Environmental was present. Commissioner DesRosier informed him that they were concerned with the water table at Willow Creek Cemetery. George stated that they were there yesterday looking at it, Marty Woolf talked about the tower that a trench was dug from which created a wetland. The Treated water was going into the lake. There was discussion as to where they think this water is coming from.

Mary Woolf stated all the years he has been there this is the first time they had a problem like this. Commissioner McKay stated that the only change up there is the new housing project. They did dig a trench, Marty went and check it this morning and it was still flowing pretty good. Commissioner DesRosier asked George if Environmental can test ground water. George stated that their budget does not pay for that and it would be a Gerald Wagner question. He also stated that you have to test for different things you cannot just bring water and have them test it. He encouraged them to contact Montana Environmental Labs and talk to them. Nick Whitcomb stated that he broke out pumping out a grave, he had blisters up his arm when he returned from lunch. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they are going to have to go to DEQ and have them look into it. Commissioner DesRosier stated that another issue they are having is at St. Michael Cemetery with weeds, mice and Hantavirus issues. They also have a wet land issue there at the south gate. He think that the only solutions to these problems and need to work on right away is a Mill Levy for the WE Cemetery District. He talked about maybe 3 or 4 more mills that way they can maybe hire a couple more people and get some equipment. Marty stated that they already get 3 mills, and suggested maybe checking into some grants. Commissioner DesRosier stated that he already looked into grants and there is not really any. He asked Marty if they got mills if he would be willing to take, maybe set down with his board and discuss come up with ideas and a little budget to look at. Commissioner DesRosier also stated that he would like to keep the conversation going, no answers today. Commissioner Overcast asked Marty if the trench helped at all, Marty stated not it did not.

There was discussion from the Commissioner's and Kyla Presnell on helping Vernie Mad Plume with the mowing and cleaning of St. Michael's Cemetery. Kyla did state that she

tried to contact Vernie not answer did leave a message but has not received a call back. Commissioner DesRosier talked about maybe purchasing another weed eater, asked Marty if maybe they could store it at his shop. George also suggested getting in contact with Man Power about a couple internship workers, talk to George Kipp maybe get two workers for 2 weeks. Commissioner McKay stated that there is a lot of history in the Cemetery. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they need to get water samples, contact DEQ and continue to explore mill levy.

J. Discussion: West End Cemetery Water Table- Commissioner McKay

See item I for discussion

OTHER BUISNESS:

K. Public Comment

L. Next Meeting-Tuesday, July 11, 2019-Cut Bank