

Glacier County Commissioners
Monday, August 26, 2019
Preliminary Budget Hearing
Cut Bank, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a Preliminary Budget meeting at 11:00 am Monday, August 26, 2019. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay and John B. Overcast was present and Glacier County Human Resource Director Mike Kittson taking minutes.

Present at the Meeting: Mandi Bird Kennerly, Glacier County Clerk & Recorder; Kyla Presnell, Public; Jamie Greco, Glacier County Library Director; Bonnie Martin, Justice Court Clerk; Carolyn Berkram, Justice Court; Fred Greco, Public; LeAnne Kavanagh, Press; June Duncan, Library; Dave Duncan, Public; Janine R. Scott, Clerk of District Court; Kari Lewis, MSU Extension; Carol McDivitt, Glacier County Health Department; David Ries, Cut Bank Airport

Meeting called to order @ 11:05 am

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Kyla Presnell asks if the Accounting fund line item of \$94,800 was for the audit. Clerk and Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly stated “No, it’s a line item where finance consultants and any other’s for accounting purposes would be paid.” Kyla also asked if the water increased and if so, why? Chancy Kittson, CFO and Clerk & Recorder Kennerly both stated that they are not sure why. She also inquired about the Road & Street, Chancy Kittson, CFO stated salaries in the bridge fund was eliminated and the mills will go to the general fund this year, so therefore increasing the Road budget wages & contributions.

Kyla then had questions on the Library training budget, Jamie Greco, GC Library explained that it is for training certification for the staff. Kyla then stated that the Memorial Fund has been moved to cover deficits, she asked if this was legal. Chancy Kittson stated that the issue has been referred to the County Attorney for review. Jamie Greco, Glacier County Library Director stated that at the end of 2015 they needed to cut \$56k for FY2016. FY 2016 the question was how much are we supposed to cut out? She also stated that the Library Board has the sole authority to determine how it was spent.

Kyla Presnell asked about Park View Senior Citizen Center and why they had a drop-in revenue, but the expenditure is the same. Clerk & Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly explained that the mills dropped due to excess cash reserves, this is the same with Parkview Transportation, and she also stated this was an audit item correction for excess reserves. Kyla then asks who runs Glacier County Transit. Clerk & Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly stated David R. Irvin of Northern Transit Interlocal is managing the Glacier County portion. It’s an interlocal agreement that has

been in place for several years. We do pay from the Glacier County end for the transit bus driver and fuel. We are reimbursed from Toole County for these costs from the grant.

Kyla asked about the Jail Fund. Chancy Kittson, CFO explained that they are working with the Glacier County Sheriff's Office on the entire Public Safety budget and that some of the costs were covered by PILT. Kyla then asked what Glacier Park Lights is. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they are special district which revenue is collected by the county and the lights go through the claims process. Kyla also inquired on the Federal Mineral Royalty Fund asking who administers. Chancy Kittson explained they have an ongoing research on this fund. Working to identify some funds that are defunct and working to identify.

Kyla stated that the Jail Construction has excess in cash reserves, using the road fund as an example why not use excess cash reserve. Chancy explained that they are working to help the department heads get accurate budget's this year.

Carolyn Berkram, GC Justice Court talks about the numbers she submitted on June 18th for her budget. She noticed there were budget changes without a conversation to the change. She states that she made 14% in cuts. Fund 330 cuts are to pay half of her law books as the other half is covered by her duties as the City of Cut Bank judge which saves the county in costs. 3-1-1506 requires training costs be reimbursed by the county for her judge duties. She stated that in object 380 she budgeted \$600 and was only given \$240 which does not cover the two mandatory judge trainings in which she splits the cost with the City of Cut Bank. Chancy asks Carolyn Berkram to meet with him at 3:00 p.m. Carol McDivitt asks if the budget on the website is accurate, Chancy replied "Yes."

Jamie Greco continued with the Library discussion. She stated that she was down to four staff members to cover two locations Cut Bank & Browning. She then asked why they are still addressing a deficit that should have been corrected. She also stated that the Library Petty Cash fund was \$30k in the account, she wants to see the bank statement. Chancy Kittson replied, the state revenue was not calculated in preliminary budget. We had a meeting and the library board was supposed to sit and meet with you. You were sent several emails which you never followed up on.

Janine Scott, District Court stated that some funds they do not have control over. Her budget has not changed. They do have a big hit to the budget starting this year with costs associated with individuals in Warm Springs and Youth Detention as well. The mental assignment cost is \$500 per day per person and youth detention is \$235 per day per person.

Kari Lewis, MSU Extension stated that they had a few changes with the administrative assistant going to part-time and she also cut travel and supplies significantly. She will pay for her cell phone charges this year. She wanted to help as much as possible with our situation, but would like to readjust in future budgets to what she has budgeted in the past. She talks about the Marias Fair contribution in which Glacier County has always contributed in the last 80 years. She would like to continue this contribution. Chancy Kittson stated that he would like to talk with her regarding putting that back into the budget.

Janine Scott also stated for the minutes on behalf of the Library that they refer people to the library for research and printing of legal documents all the time if not daily.

LeAnne Kavanagh, Pioneer Press asked if the mill values went up, if salaries were frozen and if this is a balanced budget. Chancy Kittson stated that there is a balanced budget and repayment plan. LeAnne also asked about the Glacier County Regional Port Authority, Chancy stated that this is a preliminary budget and changes can be made. There are significant cuts across the entire budget. LeAnne asked that with all the cuts and increase in value is there an increase to the tax payers? Chancy stated that it is an ongoing discussion, and replied no. LeAnne asks about the permissive levies and if there was adequate notice on the levies. Chancy responded with “Thank you for reminding me as we do need to discuss the levies in the open hearing. There are (2) levies this year with this being our base year. The two levies are the Group Medical Permissive Levy and the Sheriff’s Retirement System Permissive Levy. This is the first year that the county will permissive levy. LeAnne asked when the next budget meeting will be with the commissioners, Chancy replied the he will get that scheduled with the Clerk & Recorder.

LeAnne Kavanagh asked about the health insurance cost. Mike Kittson, Human Resource Director replied, the medical costs are higher but the Insurance Board voted to drop Dental and Vision to save the county that cost.

Commissioner McKay motions to adjourn meeting @ 12:39 pm; Commissioner Overcast second; motion carried.