

**Glacier County Commissioners  
Tuesday, September 10, 2019  
Regular Meeting  
Browning, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 am Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay and John B. Overcast was present and Melanie Heavy Runner taking minutes.

**Present at the Meeting:** Shannon Pepion, Glacier County Maintenance; Lawrence LaPlant, Glacier County Maintenance; John McGill, Press; Mike Wikstrom, Public; Dan Carney, Public; Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer; Tauna Evans, Glacier County EMS; Mike Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource.

Meeting called to order @ 9:10 am

- A. Roll Call**
- B. Approval of Agenda: Addition to the agenda Heart Butte Cut Across updates and Maintenance Updates**
- C. Reading of the Minutes: N/A**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**D. Discussion: Browning Satellite Office Improvements-Pat Schildt**

Commissioner DesRosier stated that Pat Schildt wanted to talk about improvements to the Satellite Office. He advised Pat that he would put him on the agenda but did not alert him of what day. He has been texting back in forth with Pat on the improvements.

Treasurer Don Wilson brought the Commissioners and Maintenance out to the front office to one of the things they want to happen. He stated they wanted to move the existing front counter and wall out about 3 feet to make more space in the office area. Don stated that he has spoken with Mandi and she was in agreement, also talked to her about the two departments throwing in for the expense. Don stated that he thinks it can be done inexpensively.

Treasurer Don Wilson stated that the Drivers Examiner wants to move into the old assessor's office, he in return is asking for the Examiner 1 day of the week to go to Browning. Don also informed the Commissioners that the county is losing money for every driver license receipt they sell all the county gets is \$.50. He stated that the examiners do not want the responsibility of handling money, they do accept credit cards at the examiner now. Don stated that the county needs to be paid for their time and that he spoke with the Regional Director, he agreed and was going to bring it up in Helena. He also stated to the Commissioners that he would still like to keep one of the extra offices for them here in the Browning office. Commissioner DesRosier agreed and stated either of the offices.

Commissioner DesRosier stated that Pat also talked about fixing the canopy out front of the office, fix the ramp with handrails to meet the code and negotiate it in the rent at the

time he had no price. Don Wilson stated that Pat was going to install rain gutters, he also stated that he was unsure of the cost increase. Commissioner DesRosier stated that we have a 2-year contract that can be negotiated. He also stated that if they were to find a better option they could go back and renegotiate. Commissioner Overcast stated that he doesn't feel that we need a rate increase if he is doing something his self. Commissioner DesRosier stated that if we do the wall ourselves, we will save money. Don Wilson stated that thanks to our maintenance department when they did the remodel the treasurer's office in Cut Bank is was at no cost.

Commissioner DesRosier stated that our job is public servants, he stated that there is approximately 7500 people in Browning and 700-800 people from Babb, St. Mary and East Glacier. Our duty and responsibility are to provide a service. Commissioner Overcast stated that he could not believe how many people they are for driver license. Commissioner DesRosier agreed and also stated that a lot of those people are from Browning, if we get the drivers examiner in Browning it will lessen the burden on the Cut Bank Courthouse. Treasurer Don Wilson stated that an average person has a job and go not have time to run to Cut Bank and take a chance of not getting in. He also stated the people are thankful for this office and it took a lot of effort to reopen, if we had to move again DOJ would be upset.

#### **E. Discussion: Heart Butte Cut Across Updates**

Commissioner DesRosier stated that he talked with the County Planner and he said it does not apply to roads it is up to the road person. We need to put up a public notice and have a public hearing. Commissioner DesRosier stated that now we need to put the paperwork in order by statute, we will try and get this done right away. He also stated that he talked with John "Snoop" Evans and authorized him to go ahead and do some work before winter. Commissioner Overcast stated that John "Snoop" Evans wanted to go check the road out to do a little work to fill holes so it does not mess with his machines. Commissioner DesRosier stated that it is now just the legal process and they have done this before. He stated that they will try and have the hearing here in Browning since this would be the interest area. Commissioner Overcast stated that they will take care of them and that he will stop and check with John "Snoop" Evans to see where we are at. Commissioner DesRosier stated that the Tribe is having a planning meeting next week over the roads and they were invited but the Commissioners will be gone. They are going to have another one so they can sit down with us, there are 2-3 roads that came into discussion when he talked with Don White. Commissioner DesRosier stated that he was going to talk with John "Snoop" Evans to see if he wants to go to the meeting. Commissioner DesRosier stated that the outline the County Attorney had information of the land owner on the highway, the County Planner said it was a non-issue. He also stated that the County Attorney has been in contact with MACO Attorneys over this issue.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **F. Public Comment**

Treasurer Don Wilson talked about HB656, he stated if a centrally assessed company protested more than 25% or settles for more that state has to pay the county. Don discussed abatement on taxes he gave an example of 4 companies doing an abatement which will reduce by \$4 million. He stated that he had a discussion with Magda she stated that it is not illegal, they are just scooting around the edge of the law. Don also stated that this is going to mess up the budget and going to hit the schools a lot. Another example he gave is if they protested 25%, they could settle for 45%. Magda put together a spreadsheet which she sent to the CFO and Clerk & Recorder. He also stated that the budget is done and has to be redone and not allowed to add mills to cover. Commissioner DesRosier asked if Chancy was aware, Don replied yes both Chancy Don informed the Commissioners that he was going to give Boyd Jackson and Roosevelt Treasurer a call to see how it is going to affect them, he also suggested that it needs to be brought up at the MACO Conference. Commissioner McKay stated that there is no law for DOR to negotiate on the county's behalf. Don also stated we need a tax committee and all the protested taxes go thru the tax committee except for the railroad. He also stated that the tax value is dropping with protests. Commissioner McKay asked Commissioner DesRosier if they were going to put on next agenda for Tax Appeal Board, Commissioner DesRosier stated that he thinks they need to.

Treasurer Don Wilson also informed the Commissioners that that First Interstate bank account is being used as a depository by the Library. Don would like to close that account and move it to Stockman Bank. Don stated that the Commissioners gave him a letter to add him to all accounts when he went down to the bank, he was not a signature on the account, he stated that he signed and Commissioner McKay as second signatory when he went to close the account, they told him no. He has been there 2 times and signed signature card and they say no record of it. Don stated that they needed a letter drafted from the Commissioners and himself to give to them then he can close account.

Commissioner DesRosier asked if we have anymore accounts with them, Don replied yes payroll. They some discussion about Wells Fargo, Don stated that he spoke with them and they don't want to build a building, he suggested they get a kiosk like the one in Browning. Commissioner DesRosier stated that when they came up and talked to them, they offered us everything even payroll.

Don explained that every month Carolyn has to get a check from Stockman Bank to pay liabilities. Don then talked with the Commissioners about looking into a signature plate like the tribe has and he believes this person has to be bonded. Commissioner DesRosier stated that we do not need the treasurer's signatures on our checks, Don replied no it would be the Commissioners signatures because right now the only authorized signers are the Commissioners, Clerk & Recorder and himself. Commissioner DesRosier asked if Carolyn was an authorized signer, Don stated not because she does payroll, he also stated that it could be used in emergency situations and save Carolyn panic during payroll. Don stated that he would stop over and see what it costs.

Tauna Evans informed the Commissioners that she and Mike Kittson want to talk with the Commissioners about doing a reorganization of EMS. She also stated that on the 26<sup>th</sup> the state is coming up to inspect ambulances, then October 1<sup>st</sup> they will start the in-house billing. Human Resource Director Mike Kittson stated that their plan is to reorganize from the top down. He also stated that they think the department got big to fast which made them top heavy were their expenditures did not match their revenues. Mike stated that he would like to see the department survive. Their goal is to align the expenditures to match revenue.

Both Mike Kittson and Tauna Evans stated for the equipment side they are going to write grants. They are having a meeting tomorrow at the sheriff's office with DES, EMS, Human Resource, and the CFO. Mike stated that the DES Coordinator has some contacts for us and can brief us. They have 4-5 grants pertaining to either EMS or Public Safety, most of them have past but are yearly grants. Mike Kittson stated that last year he paid for Tauna Evans and Jodi Hickey to attend grant writing training. Jody Hickey has successfully written a grant so the training has already paid off.

**G. Next Meeting-Monday, September 16, 2019-Cut Bank**

Commissioner McKay motions to adjourn meeting @ 10:56 am; Commissioner Overcast second; motion carried.