

Glacier County Commissioners
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Regular Meeting
Browning, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 am Tuesday, October 22, 2019. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay and John B. Overcast was present and Melanie Heavy Runner taking minutes.

Present at the Meeting: Jay St. Goddard, Public; Mike Wikstrom, Public.

A. Roll Call

Meeting called to order @ 9:07 am

B. Approval of Agenda:

C. Reading of the Minutes: n/a

NEW BUSINESS

D. Discussion/Approval: Road Right-of-Way-Jay St. Goddard

Jay St. Goddard stated that he is here about the 3 miles of road on the Heart Butte Cut across Road. The rest was unable to make it, he talked to them and they were ok for him to represent them. Commissioner DesRosier talked about a grant that comes out every year but this year they missed out on it. He stated that the tribe got the grant for the Many Glacier Road. He also stated that they have cut the road budget back about \$300,000 so they are kind of hurting. He also stated that they are working on easements and right-of-ways on Big Spring Hill. Commissioner DesRosier stated that need to work with the tribe and BIA to get the road worked out. There is lack of paperwork on ownership and right of way. Commissioner DesRosier stated that we can't really put anyone on it right now, we will be able to move forward when everything is in order and there are more revenues to be used for roads.

Jay St. Goddard stated that the road is bad they are braking up cars going across the 3-mile radius that they are requesting. He stated they he pays around \$6,500 in taxes and that should stand for something. Commissioner DesRosier stated that everyone pays the road tax on the tax bills. He also stated that they have been wanting to work with Don White, they will sit down with them again. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they are going to stay with what they have with the budget cut, they have over extended themselves with the budget cut. Jay asked if they could grade it, Commissioner DesRosier replied that he was unsure they would have to talk with John "Snoop" Evans. Jay St. Goddard stated that the BIA has the right-of-way to Cliff Halls. He also stated that it would be good if the tribe and the county could partner. Commissioner Overcast stated that's what he would like. Commissioner DesRosier stated that is what they are trying to

look at doing, but they haven't sat down with them he stated that they have partnered before. Jay stated if they wanted him to ask if they can. Commissioner McKay stated maybe talk to Don White to see if they had a grader, if we haul the gravel see if they would grade. Jay stated that the BIA ran half way up but made the road worse. Commissioner DesRosier stated that thought we were still milling gravel for them. He also stated that he was unsure what type of equipment they got from the BIA or if they were even finished with it all but will have to talk to Don White. Commissioner Overcast stated that we needed to know where Jay is coming from.

Jay St. Goddard stated that they want to give the right-of-way to whoever is going to take care of it, even if it is from bridge to Dog Gun Lake turn off. Commissioner DesRosier stated that could start finding all the right-of-ways of the 3 ½ miles like Mike Wikstrom did. He got a lot of documents together to record for a public right-of-way. Jay asked if it would be a tribal or county right-of-way, Commissioner DesRosier replied that it would be a public right-of-way. Mike Wikstrom informed Jay that they hired Pat Compton to help them. Commissioner McKay asked Mike Wikstrom what it cost them, Mike replied \$4,500 and that everyone threw in for it. Mike also stated that finding the records was the hard part. Jay stated that they will only have three land owners to deal with. He also stated that the road was a fire access, the county used to maintain because of the school bus. Commissioner McKay stated lets both talk to Donny about our discussion and they will also talk with John "Snoop" Evans.

Commissioner DesRosier stated when working on grant BIA has a well-established right-of-way going part way up. Would have to work with BIA to give up right-of-way for that. He also stated maybe sitting down with tribe and BIA maybe there could be some trade. In the past we traded road on the east end of the county for some on the west end. Commissioner DesRosier also stated that the Hugo Aronson Road the BIA paved half of the road and the County was supposed to pave the other half which we never got around to do. Jay St. Goddard asked the Commissioners if they knew Leroy Bingham he is a grant writer who helped get manpower he is here doing grant writing for the housing. Commissioner McKay stated that Clarence Gilham is also good with grants, one of the ones he wrote had the highest application ever recorded.

Jay stated that he will go see Donny White, they have already gone to the BIA and he will also get ahold of Pat. He also stated that he will see if Donny will provide equipment. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they missed one meeting with the tribe but they are going to have another one and is looking forward to setting down with them. He also stated that the county has over 1,000 miles of roads with four graders and short a couple of workers and short about four graders.

Jay stated that he would do his leg work and then will get back in contact with the Commissioners. Commissioner Overcast stated that this is a tuff situation and that he knows that we can work together. Commissioner McKay stated that we can't afford with

the budget cuts after speaking with John “Snoop” Evans he took a big hit with the budget cuts. Commissioner McKay also stated he would like to make a motion to hold back on future road construction and rescind all action we have done on roads since June 30, 2019 with an exception on Glacier Acres until the county is financially stable; Commissioner Overcast second; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

E. Public Comment

Commissioner Overcast stated that he talked with John “Snoop” Evans about Cut across he thought he would make it work but was unsure if he could make it out there or not. Mike Wikstrom stated that they understand that, when the snow piles up is when we need the county then we are able to maintain it. Commissioner Overcast stated that he is willing to work as long as it is not expected daily. Mike Wikstrom asked where they are at with the public meeting, Commissioner DesRosier stated he talked with Mandi about it has not got an answer but will set down with her again. He stated that she wants to advertise it but unsure why it wasn’t. He also stated that they want it on the Browning agenda. Commissioner Overcast stated that he would talk with her about it today and that advertising is a formality. Commissioner DesRosier also stated that they will try to get it on for the next Browning meeting and he apologizes for not following up. Commissioner DesRosier stated that he would like to pursue partnership with the tribe. Commissioner Overcast agreed and stated that it is not beneficial for the tribe or county but for the people. Commissioner McKay stated that he would like to see a land fill. Commissioner Overcast stated that there is money in garbage.

F. Next Meeting-Tuesday, October 31, 2019-Cut Bank

Commissioner McKay motioned to adjourn @ 10:00 am; Commissioner Overcast second; motion carried.