

**Glacier County Commissioners  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019  
Special Meeting  
Blackfeet Tribal Conference Room  
Browning, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a special scheduled meeting at 1:00 pm Tuesday, November 19, 2019. Commissioner Michael DesRosier was present, Commissioner McKay & Commissioner Overcast was absent and Melanie Heavy Runner taking minutes.

**Present at the Meeting:** Lanaina Upham, GC DES; Robert DesRosier, Blackfeet Tribe DES; Councilman Tim Davis, Blackfeet Tribe; Councilman Scott Kipp, Blackfeet Tribe; Councilman Mark Pollock, Blackfeet Tribe; Representatives for MDOT; Pondera County Commissioner; Representative from Glacier National Park; Representative from BIA; Representative Blackfeet Housing; Representatives from I.H.S; Alvin Yellow Owl, Two Medicine Water; Gerald Wagner, Blackfeet Utilities; Ray Augare, Blackfeet Domestic Water; Jerry Lunak, Water Compact; Cheryl Reevis, Blackfeet Planning

**A. Discussion: Public Works- Blackfeet Tribe**

Cheryl Reevis, Blackfeet Planning presented a slide show of the Blackfeet Strategic Plan. Kenny Bird, BIA presented a map of all roads so everyone can identify the roads that they are doing maintenance on. The slide show consisted of the tribal ordinances, water and sewer services future plans, storm drains, solid waste collection issues, transportation service/road maintenance, street light maintenance, and snow removal/potholes. She also talked about without a tax base they need to be creative, maybe charging a user fee.

Don White, Blackfeet Transportations stated that they have 800 miles of roads with all agencies, 400 of those they have right of ways to and 200 miles not right of way tribe will have to take care of. Don stated that they are still in limbo they are having issues transferring the equipment and titles. He also stated that the non-right of ways the tribe consumes. He explains that now there is no Town of Browning the tribe assumes the orphaned roads which 2 of those roads belong to the BIA.

Representative from MDOT had a map of their own and they presented a handout. He stated that Cody White is the Browning section supervisor. Representative explains they maintain 24 hour coverage thru Great Falls during the winter season. Great Falls dispatch center has access to all plow drivers and they encourage everyone to go thru them, to let them know of the trouble spots, the numbers for them are provided in the handout. He also explained page 3 of the handout which is the level of service throughout Montana. He stated that the roads in our area are mostly levels 2, 3 & 4. He also stated that the map shows level of service, that level is not always possible but it is their goal.

Chairman Michael DesRosier, Glacier County Commissioner stated that there is 1,000 miles of road in Glacier County, he is unsure the exact amount on or off the reservation. He stated that they have a maintenance crew and foreman in Browning, they work four ten hour days. During weather and emergencies they will work overtime and weekends. He also stated that they work with Glacier County DES and they are put on standby when needed. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they try and stick to their own roads unless it is an emergency. He also stated that they have a MOU with transportation for gravel. The county does the mining and crushing, then exchange with the tribe for materials. He also stated that he was not sure the wording for the MOU. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they are restricted to public road and right of ways.

Pondera County Commissioner stated they have 1,200 miles of road, they maintain 800 miles. Two of those roads are on the Reservation Mollies Nipple and Buffalo Ridge Roads. He also stated that they are getting some new trucks with plowing capabilities. Pondera Commissioner stated that they have nothing in Pondera west of Highway 89. He explains that 7 mile lane turns into BIA after the bridge. He stated that their main concern is the school bus routes. They have one plow for Birch Creek and Badger Creek. He also stated that they have a MOU in case of an emergency.

Representatives from Glacier National Park explained that they are a seasonal operation. They are very limited in the winter. They stated that they will try to help in an emergency.

Ken Bird, BIA stated that they are a direct service program, road maintenance is under the BIA. He talked about the pot hole patching project, the BIA, council and Don White came together to fill pot holes. He explained that the roads they service is Route 1 Browning to Birch Creek and Badger, Starr School Road and Boarding School to 3-C Bar road. Ken stated that their goal is to get ahead of the buses, can't get ahead of all of them. He stated that they are looking at working with others to get ahead of the buses to and from school. They then work on the streets in Browning after their main routes. Ken also stated that they are working with the tribe to get a garage in Heart Butte which was the Fire Department, widened door to store plow out there. Now they need to get with the tribe to get a MOU in place.

Harley DeCarlo, Blackfeet Housing stated that they try and keep the streets open so people to get to and from work. They also plow to ensure the ambulance can get into the projects.

Lanaina Upham, Glacier County DES and Robert DesRosier, Blackfeet Tribal DES presented together. Robert explained that Lanaina is new to Glacier County. He stated that their main goal is to save human life and saving someone in need. He explains that an emergency they can handle locally, a disaster they can get outside resources and if it is

a 1.3 million loss they can get a presidential declaration. He stated that the only snowplow capabilities they have is a shovel.

Mike Racine, I.H.S stated that the Browning Lagoon has been in and out of violation. He stated that by the end of the next year they should have it back in compliance. Mike stated that this is their main priority.

Alvin Yellow Owl, Two Medicine Water stated that they work with the I.H.S engineer. He also stated that they are working with Glacier National Park at getting golf course water. Alvin stated that the Glacier County plow took out a couple of hydrants in East Glacier so they are working on them. They are also working on a million gallon tank south of Browning. They are working to get storage problems worked out. Alvin stated that since he has taken over they are down to a handful of violations.

Ray Augare, Blackfeet Domestic Water stated they construct for I.H.S, all of the projects go thru them. He stated that they have several jobs going on, water and sewer for housing, wells and septic in rural areas. Ray also stated that they have equipment to help with the streets.

Jerry Lunak, Water Compact spoke about monies coming in from the water compact. He stated the water system public works money available will assist to provide water to communities. He stated that the tribe has full authority of the money. He spoke of it being an option to upgrade community with funds. Jerry stated that there was four types of funds with the compact. He also stated that blackfeetnation.com has information on the water compact.

There was discussion about the street lighting along 464 and Highway 89 West to the new high school as people are not visible on the road. Representative from Glacier Electric stated they got 6 working, was an agreement with the BIA and State. Councilman Davis asked about lighting to the high school, how they get that done. Representative from MDOT stated that they do not provide lighting they only light intersections. He also stated that there are more lights in Browning than any other community. He also talked about having to follow Federal Specs for lighting.

Meeting adjourned @ 3:00 pm