

**Glacier County Commissioners**  
**Thursday January 23, 2020**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Cut Bank, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular meeting scheduled meeting at 9:00 am on Thursday January 23, 2020. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay and John B. Overcast was present. Crystal R. Cole Deputy Elections Assistant taking minutes.

**Present for the meeting:** Donna Taylor, Laurie Elhard, Roger Larson, LeeAnne Kavanagh, Carol Larson, Linda Luther, Mike Kittson, Carol McDivitt, Cherrie Taylor, Becky Atkinson, Dr. Henry Clay, Michael Schultz, Travis Clark, Jake Gustafson, Lyndie Kraft, Jay LeProwse

**A. Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**B. Approval of Agenda**

**C. Reading of the Minutes: 1/7, 1/9 and 1/14/2020**

**Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the minutes from 1/7, 1/9 and 1/14/2020;**

**Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; motion carried.**

**D. Review/Sign: (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Payroll/Claims**

***Dated for January 23, 2020***

***CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT***

<b><i>FUND</i></b>	<b><i>ACCOUNT</i></b>	<b><i>AMOUNT</i></b>
1000	General Fund	\$ 87,676.24
2110	Road Fund	\$ 4,934.81
2140	Weed Control	\$ 617.91
2180	County District Court	\$ 45.50
2220	Library	\$ 369.27
2230	Ambulance	\$ 4,145.53
2250	City/County Planning	\$ 1,000.00
2280	CB Senior Citizen Center	\$ 20,639.00
2282	CB Senior Citizen Center-AGNG SERV--Transportation	\$ 26,554.50
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 8,293.38
2390	Sheriff's Drug Force	\$ 30,241.01
2410	Glacier Park Lights	\$ 530.70
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 543.99
2863	Glacier County Transit	\$ 258.58
2979	Immunization Grant	\$ 79.00
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 210.50
	<b>TOTAL CLAIMS</b>	<b>\$ 186,139.92</b>
	<b>PAYROLL</b>	<b>\$ 228,379.30</b>
	<b>TOTAL PAYROLL &amp; CLAIMS</b>	<b>\$ 414,519.22</b>

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **E. Discussion: (10:00-11:00 a.m.) Mid-Term Insurance Review – Leavitt Group**

Travis Clark, Leavitt Group starts by stating this is their mid-policy review, and asked how they are doing and if they are meeting the counties expectations. Commissioner DesRosier stated that he would know more once he speaks with Shannon Pepion and gets an update. He added by saying thanks to the Leavitt Group for being more proactive and coming in to talk and go over items. Travis stated that the safety meetings are a plus and that Shannon is doing a good job at keeping them going. Jake Gustafson stated that he has seen a big change and improvement in the past 5 years. He also stated that fire safety and other trainings are bringing in more people. Commissioner DesRosier stated that maybe it was on the counties shoulders for not being proactive, but again stated Shannon is doing a great job. Travis asked if there are any claims to go over, Commissioner DesRosier stated that he would like to go over vehicle claims, such as the law enforcement vehicles.

Travis started discussing the situation that is going on in the court house with the heat registers, Commissioner DesRosier stated that the cause of the damage is being looking into, and will speak with Shannon to see if they found out anything. Commissioner DesRosier stated that the Court House is an old building, stated that heat registers can be running harder, window seal may not be holding out air, lately there have been below zero temps that possibly caused frozen pipes and pressure change. He went stating that the boilers are annually checked, however the heat registers are not. Stated that at one point the heat registers was an “all or none” heating source for the building, but over the years the heat registers got turned over to being controlled individually. Recommended training on how to turn them on/off to each department. He advised that Shannon is great to work with and that he is the go-to person to talk about this situation.

Discussion brought up of an individual falling outside of the Browning Satellite Office and confusion on how to turn in claims. Commissioner DesRosier stated that the owner of the Satellite Office building wants to improve the entrance. Travis stated that he would like the commissioners to send a note to the owner asking for permission to inspect the building. Travis also asked that the contract between the county and the owner of the building which the satellite office runs out of be forwarded to their office for review. Commissioner DesRosier stated that they can sit down with the Blackfoot Tribe and let the attorney’s hash out identities on tribal regulations, and indemnification agreement. He also stated that the tribe provides handicap accessibility, security, phones, internet for county offices. LeeAnne Kavanagh asked if there wasn’t a contract with the satellite office, if so with who? Travis advised LeeAnne that they had a liability insurance on the satellite office, also made the comment that by Montana State Statue, leasing buildings will have a 30-day coverage after a contract lease is up.

Discussion on appointing a point contact person, someone who will make sure everyone is on the same page. Leavitt Group would like to discuss the renewal contract. Commissioner DesRosier stated to keep in contact with Clerk & Recorder, Mandi Bird Kennerly, as she can set up meeting dates.

Shannon Pepion stepped into Commissioner's Chambers with an update on the water damage. He stated a pipe possibly broke Sunday night (1/19/2020) or early Monday morning (1/20/2020), advised he called for a professional company on Monday to come in with their equipment. He stated after the moisture process is done, the company will come back in, and will go off their recommendation on what needs to be replaced. He advised things will be contracted out of what need to be fixed and will get bids out. Advised there was electronic damage in the Treasurer's, Elections and Chancy Kittson's offices. He also stated a computer upstairs shoes repercussion from water damage that happened in a different water damage situation, and that it is safer to replace everything. Shannon ensured that computers will not lose info, as they are saved to the network/server. He is unsure as to what kind of furniture is damaged at this point.

**F. Discussion: GC EMS Support – GC Board of Health Members**

Chief of Police Mike Schultz spoke on behalf of the GC Board health members, he stated the health board has a broad scope of health and safety impacting residents of Glacier County. He advised their scope is specified in six areas which include: Prevention of epidemics and the spread of disease, protection against environmental hazards, prevention of injuries, promotion of healthy behaviors, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies, and lastly assuring the quality and accessibility of health services. Chief Schultz stated the board understands it takes a budget to run things, however he expressed their concern about the budget on EMS, residents who live 30+ minutes from the nearest hospital, trainings that they provide to EMS for treatments, GC EMS being the only one with ALC transport. He also expressed his concern how it will affect the county if they were to limit volunteers for the EMS department, and that if they close down the EMS, they will have to send for air flights. He asked the commissioners if they knew what was going to happen. Commissioner DesRosier stated the Glacier County role has changed since the opening of the new building to now. He shared that he had the same concerns, that they've over spent on the building of course. He stated the biggest deficit of the negative balance on PILT is paying off the EMS building. He added that EMS is fully funded by the county, and that we are 1 of 2 counties in Montana who do this. DesRosier stated they looked into a Mill Levy to support the EMS, but the voters turned it down. He also stated that they looked at other solutions such as trying to collect debt to keep EMS doors open. Chief Schultz advised Dr. Clay stated that it getting harder to get an ambulance transport, so they rely on air transport, and expressed that it didn't help that the Mill Levy was turned down. DesRosier stated that he realizes how essential having the EMS open is, but a revenue is needed to keep it running, he also stated that people take EMS services for granted, and the concerns of the health board need to also be heard by the while Glacier County community. After DesRosier answered Chief Schultz question that it is possible to have the EMS staff shrink, he ensured him that they've addressed different scenarios, and if it comes down to closing down, they will give plenty of notice and time to get employees signed up for Unemployment. Chief Schultz stated that the board would like to be involved with any discussion regarding this situation, DesRosier advised them "of course", as they to are hoping to keeping it going. Cherie Taylor, CEO of NRMCC, expressed her concerns regarding the finances of GC EMS, money possibly being held by the state that can help fund the EMS, she expressed the scare concern of not having EMS services in the times the weather is bad. She stated that when the weather is bad, they can not get air flight into cut bank, and without EMS transportation it's a

possibility that a patient can pass away, she also advised that people have passed away due to lack of services. Commissioner DesRosier advised that he knows of patients passing away due to lack of service, and that the EMS is hanging by a thread and working with a skeleton crew, but they are trying their best to keep EMS services going. He added that he does not see EMS ending soon, but can not give promises at this point. He also stated that grants have been sought after, but there is just nothing right now. He went on saying that EMS vehicles have been sold, there have been bake sales, many avenues have been explored, they have even thought about bringing it back up to the public/tax payers by asking for a Mill Levy. He asked if there is someone that can draft something up to put out to the public?

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**G. Public Comment**

**H. Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 4, 2020 – Cut Bank**

**Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn @ 12:00 p.m.; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; motion carried**