

Glacier County Commissioners
Monday, March 9, 2020
Special Meeting
Cut Bank, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a Special scheduled meeting at 9:00 am Monday, March 9, 2020. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay & John Overcast was present and Melanie Heavy Runner taking minutes.

Present at the Meeting: Elaine Mitchell, Public; Vernon Billedeaux, GC Sheriff; Tom Seifert, GC Sheriff Captain; Linda Luther, Public; Laurie Elhard, Public; Terryl Matt, GC County Attorney; Caroyln Berkram, GC Justice of Peace; Carol McDivitt, GC Health Department; LeAnne Kavanagh, Press; Kyla Presnell, Public; Lyndie Kraft, Leavitt Group; Brenda Schilling, Port Authority; Maurice Redhorn, GC Undersheriff.

Meeting called to order @ 9:02 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval: Resolution# 2020-09 EMS Ambulance Building Mill Levy Election

Commissioner DesRosier read the Resolution. Terryl Matt, GC County Attorney stated that the public hearing needs to be taken out of Resolution, was in the last time because it was a Special Mail Ballot Election.

Commissioner McKay motions to approve Resolution# 2020-09 Glacier County EMS Building Mill Levy; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion. "See roll call vote on page 2"

Commissioner Overcast stated that not that the people don't want the EMS Building Mill Levy and he wants what everyone wants. He stated that the people don't trust that they are going to do it right, he is pretty sure the mill levy on the ballot will not go again. Commissioner Overcast also stated that he cannot vote because the citizens don't not trust them or where the money is going, thought the building was already paid for, he did state that this was his opinion.

Commissioner DesRosier asked how many support, or oppose the levy, the majority opposed. Kyla Presnell stated the she voted no before and will again she thought EMS was supposed to pay back, she stated that the Commissioners and whoever need to set down and make them pay out of their own budget. Carol McDivitt stated that she was with the building planning from day one, she believes that it would be hard to sell to the taxpayers, she also stated that the jail worked to get theirs. Commissioner DesRosier stated that the vote is not on the trust of the Commissioners it is to save EMS. Terryl Matt, GC County Attorney stated that she supports the levy, she stated, what is the difference of asking the taxpayer now or before we still have a deficit to cover. Terryl

also stated that the money has to come from somewhere and it is for the betterment of the county.

**Chairman DesRosier how do you vote; Chairman DesRosier voted for;
Vice chairman McKay how do you vote; Vice Chairman McKay voted for;
Member Overcast how do you vote; Member Overcast voted No; motion carried.**

B. Approval: Resolution# 2020-10 Public Safety Operating Mill Levy Election

Commissioner DesRosier reads the Resolution.

Commissioner McKay motions to approve Resolution# 2020-10 Glacier County Public Safety Mill Levy; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

Vernon "Napi" Billedeaux stated that the jail was built with no operating fees and that the Commissioners always kept the operation going. The jail took all of the money to get over the first year. Vernon "Napi" Billedeaux explained that they hold federal inmates which is a 24-hour service to hold the contracts. He also stated that we can't keep taking money out of PILT the jail has to be funded. He also explained that the City brings in prisoners and it is all on us now way to get around it. They are down 2 employees in the jail now, we need the jail.

Commissioner DesRosier stated that he was on the committee to get the new jail, they had complaints with the ACLU. They did look at different options and went to the voters 2 or 3 times which failed. Commissioner DesRosier also stated that the Undersheriff and he put together another committee, at that time the ACLU was going to sue, so they went to the voters again, which at that time it passed. The Clerk & Recorder at that time was new and needed to know how to put the language together so they went to a company whom helped with the language. At the time they didn't realize the language didn't include the funding for operation, they have been funding with the Sheriff's budget and PILT. He stated that we need more tax revenue if we want the jail to operate.

Commissioner DesRosier asked how may support or oppose the levy, the majority supported.

Tom Seifert, Glacier County Sheriff Captain stated that if the Commissioners was to shut the jail down it would cost the county more money, provided that they find a jail to bring the prisoners to. Glacier County prosecutes more felons and BIA federal prisoners. Tom also stated that he is in favor as a Glacier County citizen. He also explained that it is \$69.71 per inmate per day to house an inmate, for 20 inmates it would cost approximately \$500,000 per year. Tom gave more examples of the importance of the jail and also stated that if it was to get defeated then they will continue to do it again.

LeAnne Kavanagh stated that their needs to be a fair amount of time to convince the public, she suggested maybe give them until the November ballot allowing them time to inform the public. Commissioner Overcast asked the Sheriff what their opinion was.

Sheriff Napi Billedeaux stated that if we don't try and fix financially then when are we going to fix it, we can't keep going the way we are.

Kyla Presnell asked if it is approved when they get it, Commissioner DesRosier stated that the revenue comes in May. Commissioner DesRosier stated that Glacier County is the lowest property tax in Montana.

Terryl Matt, GC County Attorney stated the audit in 2018 showed this was a drain on the county. LeAnn Kavanagh asked why they were asking for twice as much. Vernon "Napi" Billedeaux replied, Chancy has the details and the overall for all. Tom Seifert stated that the mill levy will fund the jail and the remaining would help with what the Commissioners was covering, help keep jobs and move forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

C. Public Comment

D. Next Meeting-Tuesday, March 10, 2020 - Browning

Commissioner McKay motions to adjourn @ 9:49 a.m.; Commissioner Overcast second; motion carried.