

**Glacier County Board of Commissioners
Thursday, April 2, 2020
Regular Meeting (GoToMeeting)
Cut Bank, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a special scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 2, 2020. Commissioners Tom McKay & John Overcast were present, Commissioner Michael DesRosier was via conference call and Clerk & Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly taking minutes.

Present via GO TO MEETING: (2) Callers; LeAnne Kavanagh, Press

- A. Roll Call
Meeting was called to order @ 9:32 a.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda
- C. Reading of the Minutes: n/a
- D. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims (9:00-10:00 a.m.)

Dated for April 2, 2020

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

FUND	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
1000	General Fund	\$ 13,841.06
2110	Road Fund	\$ 403.21
2140	Weed Control	\$ 148.73
2180	County District Court	\$ 188.80
2220	Library	\$ 367.24
2230	Ambulance	\$ 1,257.50
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 9,022.42
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 543.53
2968	Chronic Disease Prevention Grant	\$ 66.93
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 25,839.42
	PAYROLL	\$ 202,131.78
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 227,971.20

NEW BUSINESS:

- E. Discussion/Approval: Resolution #2020-14 2020 JUNE PRIMARY MAIL BALLOT ELECTION – Mandi Bird Kennerly, Glacier County Clerk & Recorder/Election Administrator
Commissioner McKay starts by saying were going to approve Resolution #2020-14 2020 June Primary Mail Ballot Election and I will let the Clerk & Recorder/Election Administrator Kennerly will want to comment on this.

Clerk & Recorder Kennerly states that this is the last day for a resolution approval. Governor Bullock gave all 56 counties the option to opt in for a mail ballot and all the counties in the

state have decided that this is the best option in the time of COVID-19. The return ballots will have postage on the envelope so there will not be any cost to return the ballot. The return ballot cost will be reimbursed by the state. The resolution makes sense to approve and have it on file so that if there was an option at some point to get reimbursement, we have our documents in order. Our mail ballot has been approved and we do have our proof's. Our publications will start going out on April 29, 2020 – Notice of Election & Close of Registration will all be advertised for 3 weeks; but not all at once. Some will run together and we have ordered our ballots and the proofing is already starting. We will send out the ballots on May 8, 2020 to all registered voters; if the elector was to be inactive and/or moving from out-of-state or in the state the courthouse & satellite offices will be open to the public starting May 4, 2020. We want everyone to be cautious of their health and we will encourage that they drop their ballots at the post office. We want to make every effort to make sure that every Glacier County Citizen has the option to vote and we will do whatever we need to do to ensure they get to vote. We are hoping this will be a painless process. Although, it's a new process with everything going on we need to make sure everyone in our county is safe and healthy.

Commissioner McKay states that everyone is aware that this is a global outbreak and the Governor is doing everything possible to prevent the COVID-19 from spreading in the State of Montana. I do want to highlight a few of the items within the resolution.

- ✓ WHEREAS, for a county choosing to conduct the June 2 primary by mail ballot election, Governor Bullock's March 25, 2020 directive requires the county to expand opportunities for early voting by: (1) making ballots available at the election administrator's office or other designated location from May 4, 2020 until the end of the election; (2) allowing voters to apply for, receive, and mark a ballot in-person in a manner consistent with § 13-13-222, MCA; (3) sending mail ballots 25 days before the end of the election, on May 8, 2020, consistent with the timeline for absentee ballots at § 13-13-205, MCA; and (4) including a prominent notice with instructions sent to voters with mail ballots that a postage stamp is not necessary to return the ballot by mail; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bullock's March 25, 2020, directive also requires that a county conducting the June 2 primary by mail ballot election submit a written plan to the Secretary of State under §§ 13-19-201, MCA, et seq. by April 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Glacier County finds that conducting the June 2 primary by mail ballot election is necessary to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Glacier County.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners of Glacier County, Montana, hereby requests that the Glacier County Clerk and Recorder, as election administrator for Glacier County, conduct the June 2, 2020 primary election by mail ballot.

2. The June 2 primary mail ballot election shall be held consistent with Governor Bullock's March 25, 2020 directive, including the requirements that the election administrator:
 - A. Make ballots available at his office or other designated location from May 4, 2020 until the end of the election;
 - B. Allow voters to apply for, receive, and mark a ballot in-person in a manner consistent with § 13-13-222, MCA;
 - C. Send mail ballots 25 days before the end of the election, on May 8, 2020, consistent with the timeline for absentee ballots at § 13-13-205, MCA;
 - D. Include a prominent notice with instructions sent to voters with mail ballots that a postage stamp is not necessary to return the ballot by mail; and
 - E. Submit a written plan to the Secretary of State under § 13-19-201, MCA, et seq. by April 2, 2020.

3. The election administrator shall establish, implement, and enforce the safe registration and voting measures identified in Governor Bullock's March 25, 2020 directive for all in-person voting for the June 2 primary election.

There will be the option to drop your ballot at the post office drop box in Browning or Cut Bank as there is return postage on the envelope. The written plan was already submitted & approved.

Commissioner Overcast motions for approve Resolution #2020-14 2020 June Primary Mail Ballot Election; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; motion carried.

Commissioner McKay states that this is when we open up to public comment regarding the resolution. Commissioner DesRosier states that he would like to ask the Clerk & Recorder Kennerly to explain the language in the resolution of: Include a prominent notice with instructions sent to voters with mail ballots that a postage stamp is not necessary to return the ballot by mail. Is it possible to add an extra sheet that includes those announcements? Or is that already included already? Clerk & Recorder states that along with the directions it will include a note to not lick your envelope and make sure you don't have to have return postage.

Commissioner McKay states that he's happy were taking all these precautions and it shows that we care. LeAnne Kavanagh, Press asks if they should direct individuals to the lower election office or the 2nd floor office if they need to get a ballot. Clerk & Recorder Mandi explains the process of how to get a ballot due to the doors still being closed to the public. We would like the voter to call the number on the door or call the office before they get here. Once they get to the courthouse/satellite office they can call from their car and we will meet them at either the front door or back door which is handicap accessible. Or maybe we could express our concern to make an appointment like the offices in the courthouse are doing. LeAnne asks if she writes up something for the paper to explain how to get your ballot would you like to read it before it's published. Clerk & Recorder Kennerly states "Yes."

**GLACIER COUNTY RESOLUTION
2020 JUNE PRIMARY MAIL BALLOT ELECTION
Resolution No. 2020-14**

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE JUNE 2, 2020 PRIMARY
ELECTION TO BE CONDUCTED BY MAIL BALLOT**

This Resolution was introduced by Clerk's Recorder Kennedy; moved by Commissioner John B. Overcast and seconded by Commissioner Michael DesRosier. This Resolution was adopted 4-2-2020.

WHEREAS, due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus, on March 25, 2020, Governor Bullock of the State of Montana issued a directive implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020, permitting counties to conduct the June 2, 2020 primary under the mail ballot provisions of Title 13 Chapter 19, and suspending Section §13-19-104(3)(a), MCA, this purpose only; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bullock's directive recognizes that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has urged states to "encourage voters to use voting methods that minimize direct contact with other people and reduce crowd size at polling stations"; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Glacier County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution No. 2020-11 proclaiming a Health Emergency in Glacier County, Montana; and

WHEREAS, conducting a polling place election poses an enhanced risk to public health and human safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic by promoting community transmission of the virus and endangering voters, poll workers, and non-voters alike; and
WHEREAS, §13-19-202, MCA, allows a governing body to request that the election administrator conduct an election by use of mail ballots; and

WHEREAS, the mail ballot provisions of Title 13, Chapter 19, MCA, still allow for in-person voting if the June 2 primary is conducted by the use of mail ballots and, consequently, Governor Bullock's March 25, 2020 directive includes measures required for safe registration and voting, such as the adoption and enforcement of social distancing policies at polling locations; and

WHEREAS, for a county choosing to conduct the June 2 primary by mail ballot election, Governor Bullock's March 25, 2020 directive requires the county to expand opportunities for early voting by: (1) making ballots available at the election administrator's office or other designated location from May 4, 2020 until the end of the election; (2) allowing voters to apply for, receive, and mark a ballot in-person in a manner consistent with § 13-13-222, MCA; (3) sending mail ballots 25 days before the end of the election, on May 8, 2020, consistent with the timeline for absentee ballots at § 13-13-205, MCA; and (4) including a prominent notice with instructions sent to voters with mail ballots that a postage stamp is not necessary to return the ballot by mail; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bullock's March 25, 2020, directive also requires that a county conducting the June 2 primary by mail ballot election submit a written plan to the Secretary of

State under §§ 13-19-201, MCA, et seq. by April 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Glacier County finds that conducting the June 2 primary by mail ballot election is necessary to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Glacier County.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners of Glacier County, Montana, hereby requests that the Glacier County Clerk and Recorder, as election administrator for Glacier County, conduct the June 2, 2020 primary election by mail ballot.
2. The June 2 primary mail ballot election shall be held consistent with Governor Bullock's March 25, 2020 directive, including the requirements that the election administrator:
 - A. Make ballots available at his office or other designated location from May 4, 2020 until the end of the election;
 - B. Allow voters to apply for, receive, and mark a ballot in-person in a manner consistent with § 13-13-222, MCA;
 - C. Send mail ballots 25 days before the end of the election, on May 8, 2020, consistent with the timeline for absentee ballots at § 13-13-205, MCA;
 - D. Include a prominent notice with instructions sent to voters with mail ballots that a postage stamp is not necessary to return the ballot by mail; and
 - E. Submit a written plan to the Secretary of State under § 13-19-201, MCA, et seq. by April 2, 2020.
3. The election administrator shall establish, implement, and enforce the safe registration and voting measures identified in Governor Bullock's March 25, 2020 directive for all in-person voting for the June 2 primary election.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:


Mandi Bird Kennerly, Clerk & Recorder


BOARD OF GLACIER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS:


Michael J. DesRosier, Chairman


Tom McKay, Vice-Chairman


John B. Overcast, Member

OTHER BUSINESS:

F. Public Comment

“No public comment”

G. Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 7, 2020 – Cut Bank

Please join by computer or telephone via GOTOMEETING info below:

4-2-2020 Glacier County Commissioner Mtg - Cut Bank
Thu, Apr 2, 2020 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MDT)

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Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn @ 9:48 a.m.; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; motion carried.