

**Glacier County Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, October 1, 2020; Meeting Starts Promptly at 9:00 AM**  
**Court House- Commissioners Chambers**  
**512 East Main St., Cut Bank MT, 59427**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2020. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay & John B. Overcast were present and Austin Parrent taking minutes.

**Present at the Meeting:** Donna Taylor, Public; Robie Culver, Stahly Engineering; Carolyn Berkram, Justice of the Peace; LeAnne Kavanagh, Press; Mike Kittson, Human Resource Director; Brielle Andrews, Public

**Present via Go To Meeting:** (2) Callers; Cut Bank Airport Authority; Elaine Mitchell, Public; Jimmy Racine, Weed Department; Lanaina Upham, DES Coordinator; Linda Luther, Public; Lyle Rutherford, Public; Mandi Bird Kennerly, Clerk & Recorder

**A. Roll Call**

Meeting called to order @ 9:39 a.m.

**B. Approval of Agenda**

**C. Approval of the Minutes: 9/1, 9/3 & 9/8/2020**

**Commissioner Overcast motions to approve minutes 9/1, 9/3, & 9/8/2020;**  
**Commissioner McKay seconds the motions; motion carried.**

**D. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims**

Payroll & claims signed from 9:00 a.m. to 9:39 a.m.

<b><i>Dated for October 1, 2020</i></b>		
<b><i>CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT</i></b>		
<b><i>FUND</i></b>	<b><i>ACCOUNT</i></b>	<b><i>AMOUNT</i></b>
1000	General Fund	\$ 28,448.59
2110	Road Fund	\$ 6,588.63
2140	Weed Control	\$ 202.19
2180	County District Court	\$ 425.00
2220	Library	\$ 332.37
2230	Ambulance	\$ 61.19
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 4,245.36
2821	Local Gov't Road Program Funds	\$ 25,945.59
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 501.93
2863	Glacier County Transit	\$ 296.19
2960	Health Grants - Emerg Prep	\$ 9,235.06
2971	WIC	\$ 18.48
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 163.46
	<b>TOTAL CLAIMS</b>	<b>\$ 76,464.04</b>
	<b>PAYROLL</b>	<b>\$ 206,414.51</b>
	<b>TOTAL PAYROLL &amp; CLAIMS</b>	<b>\$ 282,878.55</b>

**Commissioner McKay motions to approve payroll and claims; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**E. Discussion: Justice Court Update – Carolyn Berkram, Glacier County Justice of the Peace**

Carolyn Berkram, Justice of the Peace, states that Bonnie Martin of Justice Court has now worked for Glacier County for 30 years. It is important to acknowledge employees who work for the county as hard and who are as dedicated as she is.

Mike Kittson, Human Resource Director, presents a locally made plaque acknowledging Bonnie Martin's service to Glacier County, recognizing her many years of dedication and hard work.

**F. Discussion/Approval: CCIP Update & Revisit RFQ w/ Stahly Engineering – Robie Culver, Stahly Engineering**

Robie Culver, Stahly Engineering, presents Stahly Engineering's services to be able to do a Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan. She states that what they do in a Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan is to look at budgets and financing and set a plan for possible future capital improvement projects. She further states that this will increase Glacier County's ability to get grants to fund projects in the future as grants become available. It is important to coordinate plans so that when the CDVG grant becomes available there will be a budget and plan already in place which can allow the county to take full advantage of it. It can also help the county stay focused on projects that matter and determine what the priorities are.

Commissioner DesRosier states that he talked with Chancy Kittson, Glacier County C.F.O. about the grant so that all requirements can be met by the county. He states that the county feels confident to accept it.

Robie Culver asks if there would be value in doing a Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan Seminar for all the department heads. She also states that if anyone from the community has projects coming up that they could also attend the seminar.

Robie continues to say that she sent an example Request for Qualifications document since Glacier County is due to renew its contract with an engineering firm. All federal funding requires the county to do the section 3 notice. Anything going forward will require the county to have a contract in place.

**G. Discussion/Approval: Water line/West End Cemetery – Michael Kittson, Glacier County HR Director**

Commissioner DesRosier states that Glacier County has two taxpayer cemeteries, one in Browning and one in Cut Bank. The one located in Browning is having weird issues. There is a proposed water line that is going through the cemetery for a housing project. They are not talking with the county about its property rights or have asked for an easement. The

water line is going through the main road of the cemetery. It has been an ongoing discussion in meetings, and we have been looking for solutions.

Commissioner DesRosier continues to say that they started the housing project next to the cemetery up on a hill and that it is flooding most of the grounds and ruining the cemetery. The cemetery fence is also being taken down by neighbors and horses are getting in there from time to time. It's nearly impossible to keep up with it on maintenance and hiring a surveyor or hydrologist would cost a fortune.

Commissioner McKay states that there is a lake next to the cemetery with fish and freshwater shrimp that inhabit it. The project has disturbed the flow of water into the lake and it is now drying up. The flow of water is now going into the cemetery.

Mike Kittson, Human Resource Director, states that Blackfeet Housing is doing the housing project and Two Medicine Water Co. is doing the water line. He asks why it is spongy and the lake drying up.

Commissioner DesRosier responds that old timers used to talk about huge springs that used to be located up where the project is taking place. There used to be a huge spring located just south of there. The project must have disturbed something underground. The cemeteries sextant was asked to dig a ditch on the west side of the trees and it filled with water right away, however, it didn't drain the cemetery.

Robie Culver asks if Blackfeet Environmental would pay someone to do the analysis for Glacier County.

Commissioner DesRosier states that they will inform the county attorney and pursue a discussion with Blackfeet Environmental.

Commissioner Overcast states that Marty Wolf has been paying the West End cemetery bills out of his own pocket. He has brought money down, with the bills, to the Treasurer, and it has gone against their debt while the bills go unpaid.

Commissioner DesRosier states that they couldn't get the cemetery board to come in and tell us their expenses and give us their budget. He continues to say that there were problems with their expenses being higher than their allocated budget amount too.

Commissioner McKay says that he doesn't think it can be resolved until we know the history. The Department of Revenue said that Glacier County shouldn't be paying for its libraries, museums, and cemeteries.

Mike Kittson, Human Resource Director, recommends the commissioners go and talk to Chancy Kittson, Glacier County C.F.O. to see what the bills are currently at.

## **H. Discussion/Approval: COVID-19 Update – Glacier County Commissioners**

Mike Kittson states that the DES Coordinator is on a Highline Conference Call and the Health Director is on a conference call with the State of Montana. That is where our information is coming from, so he doesn't want to interrupt them.

Commissioner DesRosier states his concern for the rising COVID-19 cases per day. They were only a few per day and now they are approaching 50-100 per day.

Mike Kittson states his worry for stretching Glacier County's resources thin. Our health care workers, hospitals, etc. are beyond their capacity to deal with the crisis that's happening. He continues to say that they will be advertising for an additional full-time nurse that is grant funded. He is worried about burnout as their jobs don't end at 5:00 p.m. Getting both the DES Coordinator and the Health Department Director additional help is a priority.

Mike Kittson continues to say that the Treasurer's Office will be opening tomorrow and the employees returning. He is encouraging all employees to wear a mask and take all necessary precautions since we had an entire department go down. He also states that the satellite office has been getting hit with a lot of people since the Treasurer's Office in Cut Bank was closed.

Discussion was had on isolating the elections staff to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 since the election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> is getting closer.

Mandi Bird Kennerly, Clerk & Recorder, recommends that the satellite office be closed to the public and take appointments only.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **I. Public Comment**

Brielle Andrews, Public, comments on the importance of having the Library opened back up. She continues to say that one of the biggest factors of child success and literacy is being read to at a young age. We live in a place where a lot of people can't afford to buy books. A large majority of our students are on free and reduced lunches which shows the importance of having services available to them like the kind that the library offers. Our library is extremely important to many people within our community.

Commissioner DesRosier states that he believes the county is close to having it reopened. He has talked with Chancy Kittson, Glacier County C.F.O. and it sounds like it is close to happening.

### **J. Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 6, 2020 – Cut Bank**

**Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn the meeting @ 11:06 a.m.; Commissioner McKay seconds the motion; motion carried.**