

Glacier County Board of Commissioners
Thursday, October 15, 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 15, 2020. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay & John B. Overcast were present and Austin Parrent taking minutes.

Present at the Meeting: Carol Larson, Public; LeAnne Kavanagh, Press; Laurie Elhard, Public

Present via Go To Meeting: (4) Callers; Alissa, Public; Ashley Sherburne, Public; Cinda, Public; Jimmy Racine, Weed Department; Linda Luther, Public; Ron Hermanet, Public; Janine Scott, Clerk of District Court; Stephanie Eney, Public

A. Roll Call

Meeting called to order @ 9:44 a.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of the Minutes: 9/21 & 9/22/2020

Tabled until next commissioner meeting on Thursday, October 19th, 2020.

D. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims

Dated for October 15, 2020		
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT		
FUND	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
1000	General Fund	\$ 46,488.19
2110	Road Fund	\$ 9,986.36
2140	Weed Control	\$ 116.61
2180	County District Court	\$ 109.23
2220	Library	\$ 557.41
2230	Ambulance	\$ 1,165.63
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 12,674.05
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 26,042.25
2960	Health Grants - Emerg Prep	\$ 951.78
2968	Chronic Disease Prevention Grant	\$ 500.00
2971	WIC	\$ 1,057.98
2979	Immunization Reimbursement	\$ 131.87
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 3,484.00
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 103,265.36
	PAYROLL	\$ 182,198.55
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 285,463.91

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

NEW BUSINESS:

E. Discussion/Approval: Resolution#2020-23 BARSAA FY2020-2021 – John “Snoop” Evans, Glacier County Road Supervisor

GLACIER COUNTY RESOLUTION
BARSAA FY 2020-2021
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROAD
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE MATCH PROGRAM FUNDS
RESOLUTION #2020-23

WHEREAS, the Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Restricted Account created by HB473 requires the Montana Department of Transportation to allocate accrued funds to cities, towns, counties and consolidated city-county governments for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of rural roads, city or town streets and alleys, and bridges; and

WHEREAS, a city, town, county or consolidated city-county government that requests funds under the Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Account must match each \$20 requested with \$1 of local government matching funds; and

WHEREAS, a city, town, county, or consolidated city-county government requesting distribution of allocated funds may make such a request to the Department of Transportation between March 1 and November 1 of the year the funds were allocated; and

WHEREAS, Glacier County intends to utilize their allocation of funds for purchase of magnesium chloride for application and maintenance of County roads; and

WHEREAS, the local match for the allocated funds and roads to receive magnesium chloride application are identified in Appendix A.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Glacier County Board of Commissioners requests distribution of its share of the allocated Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability funds to be used for purchase of magnesium chloride to be used for application and maintenance of County roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Commission of Glacier County is hereby empowered and authorized to execute such further documents as may be necessary to facilitate the distribution of said funds.

ADOPTED this 15 day of October, 2020

ATTEST

Mandi Bird Kennerly, Clerk & Recorder

GLACIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Michael J. DesRosier, Chairman


Tom McKay, Vice-Chair


John B. Overcast, Member

Commissioner DesRosier asks if the Roads Department has the \$6,673.00 match in their budget for materials. John Evans confirms that they do.

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve Resolution #2020-23 BARSAA Grant for fiscal year 2020-2021; Commissioner McKay seconds the motion; motion carried.

F. Discussion: CTCL Grant/Elections (additional discussion from 10-13-2020) – Crystal Cole, Glacier County Deputy Assistant Elections Administrator

Crystal Cole, Deputy Elections Administrator Assistant, states that she has read through the Center for Tech and Civic Life's questions and answers that are provided on their website. She would like to get ahold of them to confirm what this grant money can be spent on. She agrees that there should be ballot drop off locations, however, we need to abide by the Blackfeet ordinance. She states that she would need to communicate with the tribe to see if they will supply Glacier County with buildings to use for the ballot drop off locations and if not, would need to get approval to set up tents with ballot drop boxes.

Discussion was had about utilizing a trailer. Crystal would like to use it for the location here in Cut Bank. Commissioner DesRosier states that it might need to be moved around.

Crystal Cole states that other counties are buying canvas tents and heaters and setting two people up in tents all throughout the day to allow voters to turn in their ballots. By law, a ballot drop off box needs to be manned by two people.

Commissioner DesRosier states that he believes the biggest concern is the Babb and St. Mary's area. There are a lot of voters in East Glacier. He would like to put a ballot drop box there for at least a few days.

Crystal Cole mentions that she would need the elections administrator Mandi Bird Kennerly, Clerk & Recorder, to approve some of these plans first.

Commissioner DesRosier states that the county attorney, Terryl Matt, said they were receiving complaints because there aren't currently ballot drop off boxes at those locations.

Crystal Cole states that the other thing to consider is that the weather is getting colder. People might not want to sit outside in tents for 8 hours a day in cold weather. We could supply heat, a portable toilet, and other supplies however it would be more convenient if the tribe would meet us halfway and provide us with buildings like the East Glacier Women's club and the Babb school to be able to have these drop off locations. She further states that we called these places back in July or August and were only give a maybe as to whether or not they could be used. They stated that they were going to abide by the Blackfeet ordinance. One of the main reasons a mail ballot election was chosen was because four out of our seven polling places are located on the Blackfeet reservation and would likely be unable to be used due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Overcast states that ballot envelopes are free to mail and can also be dropped off at the Satellite Office in Browning or here at the Courthouse in Cut Bank. He has a hard

time believing that people can't get to a post office to send it in the mail or drop it off at one of these locations. He further states that it is a lot to expect of the elections office to have to staff these drop off locations on such short notice.

Crystal Cole says that a lot of people don't have the means to get to the post office. Western Native Voice is communicating with Melanie Heavy Runner, Deputy Elections Assistant at the Satellite Office, on a daily basis. It makes it easier now that the BIPAA form is no longer necessary to fill out when ballots are dropped off. Crystal states that they get a lot of calls throughout the day of people who don't trust the mail to deliver their ballot.

Commissioner DesRosier states that there are a lot of people around the country who are still demanding to be able to go in and vote in person at a polling place. To replace that, one of the means that we have available are these drop boxes which a lot of counties are doing. We have the CTCL grant and therefore have the money to be able to provide something like that.

Crystal Cole states that the grant does cover hiring more help, including additional judges as well as training and recruitment costs. She states that even though we don't have polling places we could have drop off locations, however, we will need to work with the tribe to be able to utilize locations on the Blackfeet reservation.

Discussion was had on whether the commissioners have the authority to approve Crystal Cole to start conversations with the tribe to set up drop off locations. It was decided that Crystal should start the conversation with Dawn Gray, Managing Attorney at Blackfeet Nation, and then provide Clerk & Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly with the details so that a decision could be approved the following day.

Crystal Cole states that the CTCL grant was awarded on October 6th, 2020 at 3:39 p.m. in the amount of \$263,830.00. She was given the authority to administer the spending. The grant will cover certain expenses between June 15th, 2020 and December 31st, 2020 in regards to elections' costs.

Commissioner McKay states that there were a record number of registered voters this year.

Crystal Cole says that we are at almost 9,000 active and inactive voters. A lot of inactive voters are also coming in to be reactivated. Close to 7,000 ballots were sent out on October 5th, 2020, and every day we are sending out more. In 2016, there were over 3,000. In 2018, there were over 5,000. Each federal election we are climbing, and we are now over double the amount we had in 2016.

LeAnne Kavanagh asks whether the CTCL grant would cover the cost of hiring an additional elections worker to help downstairs in the elections' office.

Crystal Cole states that they could get another worker down there. It does take intense training to get to know the Montana Votes system. A state issued fob is also required to be able to log in. She states that having an additional person to help with processing while the other is registering voters would help.

OTHER BUSINESS:

G. Public Comment

LeAnne Kavanagh asks if there has been an update on the transfer of school funds to School District #9.

Commissioner McKay states that in their board minutes they have approved looking at the proposal the county has sent to them in regard to a payoff. He further states that Corrina Guardipee, School District #9 Superintendent, would be able to further elaborate.

LeAnne Kavanagh questions if the proposal gave school district #9 a timeline to approve or reject the offer.

Commissioner McKay states that it did not.

LeAnne Kavanagh asks if the amount was 1.663 million dollars.

Commissioner McKay states that it is.

LeAnne Kavanagh asks if there have been any updates on the Indian Health Service lawsuit.

Commissioner Overcast states that everything has been compiled on Glacier County's end.

Commissioner DesRosier says that it is now up to the attorneys to discuss it between themselves.

LeAnne Kavanagh questions if the over \$11,000 Rita Neuman claim that was approved today was for work that was done regarding the Indian Health Service lawsuit.

Commissioner DesRosier confirms that it was.

LeAnne Kavanagh says that the claim was dated through October 8th, 2020, and questions if documents are still being submitted.

Commissioner DesRosier confirms that it what she is working on.

Carol Larson asks about the cash reports and if they are being accepted by the state.

Commissioner McKay responds that they have been accepted. The state is satisfied with Glacier County enough to where they are ready to release all the money that they have been withholding regarding the cash reports. He states that he will need to speak with Chancy Kittson, Glacier County C.F.O. to make sure.

Commissioner Overcast states that he would like to see a cash report on the 20th of October or whenever it is due.

H. Next Meeting – Monday, October 19, 2020 – Cut Bank

Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn the meeting @ 10:34 a.m.; Commissioner McKay seconds the motion; motion carried.