

**Glacier County Board of Commissioners**  
**Monday, October 19, 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 Monday, October 19, 2020. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay & John B. Overcast were present and Austin Parrent taking minutes.

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

**Present via Go To Meeting:** (3) Callers; Brian, Public; Carolyn Berkram, Justice of the Peace; Gloria, Public; Kim Stoltz, Public; Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development, Stephanie, Public; Stephanie Eney, Public

**A. Roll Call**

Meeting called to order @ 9:09 a.m.

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**C. Approval of the Minutes: 9/17, 9/21, 10/1 & 10/6/2020**

**Commissioner Overcast motions to approve minutes 9/17, 9/21, 10/1, 10/6/2020;**  
**Commissioner McKay seconds the motion; motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**D. Discussion/Approval: Big Sky Trust Job Creation Fund Submittal – Sara Converse, Sweetgrass Development**

Sara Converse of Sweetgrass Development states that the Big Sky Trust Job Creation Fund Submittal isn't due until December and wanted to let the commissioners know that it is coming up. This for the company that purchased all of the infrastructure and equipment at Pardue Grain. They are finishing their purchase of the facility and would like to apply for this funding and need to do so through the local government since it is located out in the county. They are looking to hire 7-10 people. These are state funds that pass through the county.

Sara Converse states that she will work with the port authority to get this all submitted. Once it is finalized the commissioners can then take action to approve it. There may need to be a resolution from the county at that time. Once it has been submitted, she will work with Brenda Schilling, Glacier County Regional Port Authority Executive Director, so that she can do the administration on the grant itself. There are some administrative funds that go along with the grant, which would be a good amount of revenue for the port authority as well.

Sara Converse states that it will be fantastic for Glacier County since they will be hiring locally. These jobs are higher than minimum wage. They have to pay 175% of the median wage for the area in order to receive the reimbursement from the state.

**E. Discussion/Approval: Election Administration (Mandi) – Michael DesRosier, Glacier County Commissioner**

Tabled until the next meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 - Browning

**F. Discussion/Approval: Stahly Engineering RFP/Follow-Up CCIP – Michael DesRosier, Glacier County Commissioner**

Commissioner DesRosier states that Glacier County needs to get an ad in the paper on the RFP in order to continue with Stahly's contracted services. He continues to state that two notices need to be issued in the paper.

**Commissioner McKay motions to advertise for an RFP for two issues in the newspaper for engineering services; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.**

**G. Discussion: 2020 General Election Update (Crystal) – Michael DesRosier, Glacier County Commissioner**

Commissioner DesRosier states that there are a lot of requests coming in for ballot drop boxes.

Crystal Cole, Deputy Assistant Elections Administrator, states that she talked with Clerk & Recorder Kennerly this morning and is having Maintenance Department Head Shannon Pepion set up a trailer at the Satellite Office and equipping it with heaters, chairs, and a table. The rate for election workers has been increased to \$12.00 per hour up from \$9.00 per hour. She states that she is a little unsure about the stick game harbor but intends to make it available for voters to be able to stay in their vehicles and drive through to drop their ballots off.

Crystal Cole states that she is worried about the spread of COVID-19 and wants to minimize risk to elections staff and workers who have to man ballot drop boxes. The Stick Game Harbor is more centrally located in Browning and will allow voters to drop off their ballots without having to go several miles to the Satellite Office.

Commissioner Overcast questions the reasoning behind requiring ballot drop off boxes considering both Babb and East Glacier have post offices for people to submit their ballots by mail.

Crystal Cole states that a lot of voters don't trust the mail. She has received several phone calls this morning about people who have submitted their ballots last week which have not been received by the elections department as of today, Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

More discussion was had about COVID-19 and safety precautions that will be taken at the ballot drop off locations, including election workers wearing gloves and masks and social distancing being implemented.

**H. Discussion/Approval: August 2020 & September 2020 Cash Report – Michael DesRosier, Glacier County Commissioner**

LeAnne Kavanagh questions how confident the commissioners were in the cash reports they are approving being accurate considering the months of July, August, and September of 2019 were resubmitted to the state and have not yet been accepted. The state has also requested additional information on those that were resubmitted.

Commissioner DesRosier states that it is a separate issue that the Treasurer's Office is working on reconciling with the state.

**Commissioner McKay motions to approve the August 2020 Cash Report; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.**

**Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the September 2020 Cash Report; Commissioner McKay seconds the motion; motion carried.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**I. Public Comment**

Laurie Elhard, Public, questions who the buyer is of the Pardue Grain facility and whether they are locals.

Sara Converse states that it is an American company but they are not in Montana. They are expanding into Montana which will bring more money to Montana. They are going to be hiring locally as well.

Carol Larson, Public, questions if there has been any news on the Mercantile Building.

Commissioner DesRosier states there is nothing new.

LeAnne Kavanagh, Press, questions Commissioner McKay about a post that he made online having to do with school district #9 funds. The post stated that as of Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October the Glacier County Treasurer said that the county paid the Browning Schools the negotiated amount that the county and the schools had an issue with and the county has an extensive amount of money in reserve. She questions if he is standing by his statement.

Commissioner McKay responds that it is what the Treasurer, Don Wilson, told him and he had no reason to believe otherwise.

Treasurer Don Wilson states that what he told Commissioner McKay is a true statement.

**J. Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 27, 2020 – Browning**

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