

**Glacier County Commissioners
Thursday, September 17, 2020
Regular Meeting (GoToMeeting)
Cut Bank, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 AM on Thursday, September 17, 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; Judy Moats, Public; Cherie Taylor, Northern Rockies Medical Center CEO; Marlene Luedtke, Public; Janine R. Scott, Clerk of District Court; Jamie Fried, Community Service Coordinator

Present via Go To Meeting: (2) Callers; Carolyn Berkram, Justice of the Peace; Ctb, Public; Curtis Harper, Public; Cut Bank Airport Authority; Elaine Mitchell, Public; Gloria, Public; Ron Hermanet, Public; Sanford Stone, Public; Janine Scott, Clerk of District Court; Stephanie Eney, Public

A. Roll Call

Meeting called to order @ 9:46 a.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of the Minutes: n/a

D. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve Payroll and Claims; Commissioner McKay seconds; Motion carried.

<i>Dated for September 17, 2020</i>		
<i>CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT</i>		
<i>FUND</i>	<i>ACCOUNT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
1000	General Fund	\$ 28,239.16
2110	Road Fund	\$ 15,321.93
2140	Weed Control	\$ 185.03
2220	Library	\$ 770.08
2230	Ambulance	\$ 1,909.28
2250	City/County Planning	\$ 1,000.00
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 15,432.80
2394	Records Preservation Fund	\$ -
2410	Glacier Park Lights	\$ 529.30
2960	Health Grants - Emerg Prep	\$ 2,527.87
2971	WIC	\$ 30.60
2979	Immunization Reimbursement	\$ 106.74
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 39.43
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 66,092.22
	PAYROLL	\$ 189,655.04
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 255,747.26

OLD BUSINESS:

E. Discussion/Approval: FY 2020-2021 Northern Transit Interlocal \$5,000.00 & Glacier County Transit \$25,000.00 Commitment – Glacier County Commissioners

Commissioner DesRosier states that Glacier County contributes both \$5,000.00 and \$25,000.00 annually to support the Glacier County Transit program. The \$5,000.00 cost supports the Coordination Plan for which the Northern Transit Interlocal Board approved on February 4, 2020. The \$25,000.00 amount is for the operational costs of the Glacier County Transit program for fiscal year 2021.

Commissioner McKay motions to pay the Northern Transit Interlocal and the Glacier County Transit invoices; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

F. Discussion/Approval: Glacier County EMS/NRMC Lease Agreement – Glacier County Commissioners & Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO

Cherie Taylor, Northern Rockies Medical Center C.E.O., starts the discussion about the lease agreement between Glacier County and Northern Rockies Medical Center in terms of operating EMS moving forward. She states her understanding is that Glacier County will take all the mill levies in order to operate from June to October, 2020. For subsequent years two and three, those mill levies will be given over to be part of the lease with EMS.

Northern Rockies Medical Center will take over EMS starting October 1st, 2020, which includes the Cut Bank EMS building and ambulances.

Chancy Kittson, Glacier County C.F.O., states that he and Cherie are both eager to finish the lease agreement. He continues to say that the community will get to maintain the EMS service while Glacier County will be able to minimize its insurance costs.

Cherie Taylor says that it will take Northern Rockies Medical Center a while to build EMS back up. She continues to say that it will be a struggle to get it all into place at first. Her board did authorize her to start a fundraising campaign for EMS, however, they will still be short come October to get the service to break even.

Commissioner DesRosier says that it will be great to salvage what we have left out of EMS. He continues to say that it will slowly improve but it will be great for the community. He questions if claims other than insurance for EMS will stop coming in after October 1st, 2020.

Chancy Kittson responds that only the bills from July 1st through October 1st, 2020 will need to be paid in order to close that out. He further states that we are still waiting for the final numbers from Levitt for the insurance costs.

Cherie Taylor comments that Northern Rockies Medical Center will only be doing the services for EMS that are located here in Cut Bank. Babb EMS will be a separate entity that will still be handled by Glacier County.

Commissioner McKay motions to approve the Glacier County EMS/NRMC Lease Agreement; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

G. Discussion/Approval: East Glacier Women's Club Property Taxes & Non-Profit Status – East Glacier Women's Club

Judy Moats, East Glacier Women's Club, states that the East Glacier Women's Club has received its non-profit status on September 3rd, 2020. She continues that as of this date, they will no longer be paying taxes, however, there is an outstanding \$1,300.00 tax bill that is still owed to Glacier County. Previously the club was paying \$35.00 in taxes but this went up due to the State of Montana making businesses along Highway 2 and East Glacier go commercial. It all happened quickly and they were not able to fill in the right paperwork in order to get their non-profit status in time before they received the \$1,300.00 tax bill.

Through the State of Montana, they are going to receive \$5,000.00 in funding from a COVID-19 grant. How that money is used will depend on whether or not Glacier County is able to change the taxes that are due.

Treasurer Don Wilson states that by law, Glacier County is not able to forgive any taxes that are owed to it because the hospital, city, and other entities are entitled to a portion of those taxes that get collected. He continues that their 501© status doesn't exempt them from property taxes. He states that there are only two options moving forward. The East Glacier Women's Club can appeal to the Department of Revenue to try and adjust the valuation of their property in an attempt to reduce the overall taxes that would be due to Glacier County moving forward. The second option would be to donate the East Glacier Women's Club building to Glacier County so that the property could be deemed exempt from having property taxes collected on it.

Janine Scott, Clerk of District Court, asks Judy Moats if the building is on the historic registry. Judy states that it made it on the historic register last December.

Treasurer Wilson states that the property has always been a commercial property. The property taxes in 2013 went from costing several hundred dollars to approximately thirty. It was noted that this change in valuation was due to a 1985 exempt letter. It returned to a full commercial property which resulted in the \$1,300.00 tax bill.

Treasurer Wilson comments that the Department of Revenue decides the commercial status of a property and Glacier County does not have a say. Commissioner DesRosier adds that he has talked with County Attorney Terryl Matt and by law, Glacier County is not able to take any action to forgive taxes that are owed.

Judy Moats states that they will pay their taxes next week.

Judy comments that she read in the paper that the East Glacier Women's Club is no longer getting any county money. From Glacier County they receive \$114.00 per month as a stipend for the library services offered by the club. She continues to say that in doing so the county may have done them a service because that will allow her to apply for another grant

by the 1st of October. The grant is a children's book grant that at the lowest end is \$5,000.00. Judy says that she would need a letter stating that they will no longer be receiving funding from Glacier County in order to show that the East Glacier Women's Club is its own entity, allowing them to apply for this grant on their own.

Judy says that the final issue they are having has to do with book rotations between the East Glacier Women's Club and the Glacier County Library. They have had no books in rotation since the Glacier County Library closed and they are in need of books.

H. Discussion/Approval: Community Service Coordinator Program – Janine Scott, Clerk of District Court & Glacier County Commissioners

Janine Scott, Clerk of District Court, states that Jamie Fried is our community service coordinator and this program has been going on for at least 15 years. Jamie takes care of youth who are given community service hours. She coordinates with organizations throughout the community to allow them to fulfill their community service hours.

Jamie Fried states that almost all of her juveniles come from the city court here in Cut Bank. She approached the City of Cut Bank with taking the program over from Glacier County since all of her juveniles needing community service hours are coming from the city court.

Jamie says that they agreed to take the program over and pay Jamie's wages and worker's compensation.

Janine Scott states that today's paycheck (September 17th, 2020) will be the last paycheck before the city takes over on her wages. Janine asks if the commissioners would also pay her for her remaining hours of vacation and sick leave.

Commissioner Overcast motions to transfer the Community Service Coordinator Program over to the City of Cut Bank and to pay Jamie Fried her remaining vacation and sick leave; Commissioner McKay seconds the motion; motion carried.

I. Discussion/Approval: Informational Issues – Terryl Matt, Glacier County Attorney

Tabled to the commissioner meeting on September 22nd, 2020 in Browning.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Public Comment

K. Next Meeting – Monday, September 21, 2020 – Cut Bank

Commissioner McKay motions to adjourn the meeting @ 10:33 a.m.; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.