

**Glacier County Commissioners
Thursday, January 7, 2021
Regular Meeting (GOTOMTG)
Cut Bank, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 am Thursday, January 7, 2021. Commissioners John B. Overcast and Mary Jo Bremner was present and Commissioner Michael J. DesRosier was absent. Clerk & Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly taking minutes.

Present at the Meeting: Elaine Mitchell, Carol Larson, Marlene Luedtke, Laurie Elhard, Donna Taylor & Linda Luther, Public; LeAnne Kavanagh, Press; Michael Kittson, GC HR Director; Wade Johnson, Cut Bank SD#15 Superintendent; Linsey Milender, Cut Bank SD#15 Business Manager; Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer

Present via GoToMeeting: (3) Telephone callers; Austin Castle; Cut Bank Airport Authority; Kim Stoltz; Linda Burley; Lyndie Kraft; Mike Kittson; Janine Scott; Sgage; Stephanie Eney

A. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

Elaine Mitchell, Public asks to request and addition to the agenda in regard to the statements made by the Glacier County Treasurer on the December 29, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Bremner declines this request due to the Glacier County Treasurer not being present. Commissioner Bremner requests that Elaine save her comments and/or concerns for the public comment time.

C. Approval of the Minutes: n/a

D. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims

Dated for January 7, 2021

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

<i>FUND</i>	<i>ACCOUNT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
1000	General Fund	\$ 27,100.17
2110	Road Fund	\$ 13,836.11
2140	Weed Control	\$ 148.90
2180	County District Court	\$ 87.42
2220	Library	\$ 1,120.61
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 5,488.86
2394	Records Preservation Fund	\$ 700.00
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 544.25
2960	Health Grants - Emerg Prep	\$ 15,860.69
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 114.00
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 65,001.01
	PAYROLL	\$ 192,349.08
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 257,350.09

NEW BUSINESS:

E. Discussion: School District #15 Monthly Tax Payments – Wade Johnson, School District #15 Superintendent of Schools & Linsey Milender, School District #15 Business Manager

Wade Johnson, Cut Bank School District #15 Superintendent introduces himself and Linsey Milender, Cut Bank School District #15 Business Manager to the commissioners. Wade states that he will have Linsey explain how their process works with Glacier County. Linsey starts by stating that every month by the 20th the Glacier County Treasurer will give her a call or an email that their financials and check is ready to be picked up. On November 13, 2020 the Treasurer called and when I came to the courthouse to pick up the reports and check he brought me in the back and told me that he had to do numerous adjustments from previous years and the financials are all messed up. He states that he will meet with the Glacier County Attorney and the Commissioners and see what they can do about it. She states that he did give her a check around \$5,000.00 and I asked him for a report to show me where this money came from, so I can know where to put it. The report is usually 80 pages long and I received a report cut in half with totals missing and it was three pages (copies were provided). Linsey explains that these reports help them reconcile and keep on track with the financials. Linsey goes on to state that on January 4, 2021 I had to get Superintendent Johnson involved because we didn't get our November disbursement and we are in need of these funds to continue operating and cover our payroll in the coming months. The Glacier County Treasurer had promised for two months that he would get the reports/check to her within the next two months. Linsey explains a big difference in the October to present reports of previous balances. She states that they were in the Treasurer's Office on Monday and were asked to leave. We are just asking that we need to have more timely reports and payments as we have over 200 employee's and we can't operate like this. Commissioner Bremner states that they will look into this tomorrow (1-8-2021) and reiterates from previous meetings that we all have bills and they need to be paid on time. Commissioner Bremner also states that Glacier County will work on clear communication with all and appropriate behavior. LeAnne Kavanagh, Press asks if you have an idea of how much is owed to SD#15? The commissioners, LeAnne & Linsey have a brief discussion on what the schools received last year and a rough figure of what is expected this year. At 9:46 a.m. Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer arrives to the meeting with updated October & November financials and checks for both months (\$1,409,943.80) that a commissioner will need to sign. He states that the November payment should be substantially more, but Rocky Mountain Pipeline have protested their taxes and their bill was over a million with Cut Bank Schools having the largest cut from that tax bill. There is a lengthy discussion on clear communication in the future and how the retirement payments happen. Treasurer Wilson apologizes that he didn't think to contact any outside entities when it was discovered that there was a mistake on the tax bills that went out. Treasurer Wilson also has a discussion on the quarterly tax payments from GTB/Oil & Gas Tax/DOR checks. Treasurer Wilson explains that this situation with the taxes shouldn't happen again. All are in agreement that they have accomplished what needed to be done today.

OTHER BUSINESS:

F. Public Comment

Treasurer Don Wilson wanted to address the conversation from Tuesday, January 5, 2021 on that tax bills. He explains how the new tax bills will look and that the difference will not be due until the second half payment due May 31, 2021. He states that the people who haven't paid their taxes they will have until February 16, 2021 to pay their first half without penalty. LeAnne Kavanagh, Press states that it's a great idea to just put what's additional on the taxes and make it due on the second half of taxes. It just really confuses people and to have to do the math is difficult.

Elaine Mitchell, Public would like to have an educational discussion with the commissioners regarding the cash reports, bank reconciliation, restricted funds and the negative balances that show on the cash reports. She states the importance of beginning & ending balances. Elaine also talks about the PILT fund and spending twice the amount. Commissioner Bremner states that she does have goals in mind on this; but my goal is to work on the most important issues today and then work backward in time. There is a lengthy discussion on Glacier County financials. Elaine also addresses the letter that is to go out with the new tax bills. LeAnne states that Treasurer Wilson stated on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 that he will be revising the letter. Commissioner Bremner states yes, I believe it will be changed, but I haven't seen it yet.

Carol Larson, Public asks about discussion/approval comments after the approval of an item. Commissioner Bremner states that she will check the protocol. Carol thanks the commissioners for the ability to address their concerns. There is discussion on a time limit for public comment in the future.

G. Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 12, 2021 – Browning

Commissioner Bremner motions to adjourn at 10:47 a.m.; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

GLACIER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael J. DesRosier, Chair

ATTEST:

Mandi Bird Kennerly, Clerk & Recorder