

**Glacier County Commissioners
Thursday, April 1, 2021
Regular Meeting (GoToMtg)
Cut Bank, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 am Thursday, April 1, 2021. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, Michael J. DesRosier & John B. Overcast were present and Austin Parrent taking minutes.

Present at the meeting: Walter Barry, Del Bonita Fire Chief; Brenda Schilling, Glacier County Regional Port Authority Executive Director; Betsy Seglem, Public; Dennis Seglem, Glacier County Historical Museum Director; Bob Bacon, Public; Carol Larson, Public; Laurie Elhard, Public; LeAnne Kavanagh, Press; Cherie Taylor, NRMCC.E.O.; Rick Billman, NRMCC Chair; Marlene Luedtke, Public

Present via Go To Meeting: (3) Callers; Austin; Cut Bank Airport Authority; Elaine; Jim Yeagley; Linda Luther; Lyndie Kraft; NRMCC-NUC49; Stephanie Eney; TM

A. Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of the Minutes: n/a

D. Review/Sign: Payroll & Claims

Dated for April 1, 2021

PAYROLL & CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

<i>FUND</i>	<i>ACCOUNT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
1000	General Fund	\$ 8,027.94
2110	Road Fund	\$ 15,414.93
2140	Weed Control	\$ 73.59
2180	County District Court	\$ 132.56
2220	Library	\$ 288.65
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 7,801.82
2360	Museum	\$ 941.06
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 501.93
2960	Health Grants - Emerg Prep	\$ 407.80
2971	WIC	\$ 155.02
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 3,484.00
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 37,229.30
	PAYROLL	\$ 190,921.68
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 228,150.98

NEW BUSINESS:

E. Discussion: Del Bonita VFD - Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

Walter Barry, Del Bonita Fire Chief, starts the first item of the agenda stating he was chosen in the spring of 2016 to run the Del Bonita Volunteer Fire Department. He has a 28'x28' building which they have outgrown. He is intending to pursue getting a larger building. He

states that the northeast corner of the reservation is very remote and that having a more centralized location with water storage capabilities and a place for the vehicles as well as having a gather place for the community for programs like 4-H would be beneficial. They looked into several sources of funding and he states that federal grant money is very contingent on how the building is built.

Commissioner Overcast commends Walter for his involvement with the Browning V.F.D. and their efforts in the grass fire that is currently spreading.

Walter states he met with all the fire chiefs in Glacier County and they have decided to start meeting twice a month, once in Browning and once in Cut Bank.

The Del Bonita V.F.D. currently has two emergency medical technicians (E.M.T.) and one other first responder to administer first aid when needed.

Commissioner Bremner commends all firefighters currently helping with the grassfire. She states that they helped her friend when the fire came within a few meters of her home and is grateful they were there to help.

Commissioner DesRosier comments on the difficult of getting grant funding since most of the grants are for large fire departments rather than rural ones. He states that it is easier when fire departments work together to obtain funding rather than try as singular, separate departments. Having a centralized location for trainings, 4-H, and other community issues is important. He also mentions fund raising as another option for revenue and thinks that this is an important piece of infrastructure for the county.

Commissioner Bremner agrees and states that the job requires a lot of coordination and a centralized location is necessary for the Del Bonita V.F.D.

F. Discussion: Glacier County Historical Museum - Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

Dennis Seglem, Glacier County Historical Museum Director, has been director of the museum since 2001. His wife Betsy Seglem helps by writing grants and filling in where she can since the museum facility is so large. It has been nearly a year since county entities were furloughed and they were granted access to the Museum budget in late December of 2020. They were able to remain open to the public through volunteers. As a 501© nonprofit, they have to prove to the internal revenue service (I.R.S.) 990's that they are doing their duties. The COVID-19 pandemic had a huge impact and this could be seen through the visitor numbers as they had only four visitors that came in August of 2020 as a result.

The museum is currently trying to diversity it's revenue and would like support from the county. Since they have been putting their efforts towards finding funding they have not been able to focus on programming for the museum, which focuses on stories that go with every item that gets collected.

Dennis states that Bev Donaldson took a large collection with her when she moved to Helena and has frequently donated over the years. He was hesitant to take a donation from her recently because of funding issues which would result in a lack of proper care for the artifact. He continues to state several donors who have offered many different museum artifacts that are a part of Glacier County's history.

The Museum collects many different historical records as well, such as census records, school records and stories, and traditional Blackfeet objects. The Museum needs stability to be able to add these artifacts to its collections and to program the stories that go with them for the people visiting. They need funding for the collection of supplies, electricity and gas, and the preservation of the artifacts. He states that they were expected to walk away when furloughed but luckily they did not as a water leak was caught as a result of their continued efforts. If it had not been caught when it was it would have resulted in the museum losing at least 50% of its collection.

Dennis states that it is a large task to maintain a 14-acre operation and when he first came on with the museum as its director there were not a lot of ways to preserve such a large collection.

Commissioner Bremner states that with the COVID-19 money coming in next week they will have a better idea as to what they will be able to help with. She does not think they will be able to provide the full \$129,000 budget that Dennis and Betsy have proposed, however she also understands that the current budget of \$66,000 is not very much to operate on. She states Glacier County will help where it can.

Dennis mentions they have applied for a grant which has been trimmed down to \$5,400.00. It is currently going to the Montana Legislature but should help with utilities moving forward.

Commissioner Bremner states that the commissioners will be very judicial with the Recovery Act money as they don't want to leave departments in a bind a year from now when that money is no longer available.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to allow the Glacier County Historical Museum to open; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

G. Discussion: Northern Rockies Medical Center & Kalispell Regional Medical Center/Logan Health Update - Cherie Taylor, Northern Rockies Medical Center CEO
Cherie Taylor, NRMC C.E.O., states that Northern Rockies Medical Center (N.R.M.C.) has been in contact with Kalispell Regional Medical Center (K.R.M.C.) and Logan Health. N.R.M.C. would be doing a membership substitution agreement with Logan Health in Kalispell. There would be no layoffs as N.R.M.C. remains while Logan Health would add additional resources. This will not cost Glacier County or taxpayers any money and will instead offer additional services and specialists that will become available to N.R.M.C.

Cherie states that this is to build up their services and that during the COVID-19 pandemic it was great to have Logan Health as a resource to help with regional support. They will tally the votes on May 5, 2021, if it passes they would like an effective date of June 1, 2021.

H. Discussion: Glacier County 2nd Tax bill mailing - Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

There was question as to who would be paying for the preparation and mailing of the second tax bill statements that needed to be sent out due to errors when the mills were entered into the tax system. There is currently a disagreement as to who is responsible for paying for this bill between the Treasurer and Clerk & Recorder.

Commissioner Bremner states that the commissioners will look at both budgets and they will decide who will pay this bill.

I. Approval: State of Emergency - Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

This item was put on hold until a later date as the emergency declaration was not done properly. This item was in regards to the wildfire currently spreading on the reservation.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Public Comment

LeAnne Kavanagh, Press, questions if the claim for the 2nd tax bill mailing has been paid. Commissioner Bremner states that the claim has been paid.

LeAnne questions the public comments section of the meeting and why it has been moved to the end of the meeting rather than allowing it to happen before each item that the commissioners take action on.

Commissioner DesRosier comments that this is how meetings at the state level are structured as well.

Carol Larson, Public, asks why the maintenance department does not mow the lawn out at the museum anymore as Dennis mentioned it was an important part of preservation of artifacts since it acts as a fire break.

Commissioner Bremner states they will ask the maintenance department after the meeting.

Brenda Schillings, Port Authority Director, would like to get everything signed and completed for the agreement between Glacier County and AgriOne. What has not been signed is the agreement between glacier County and the business. She expresses her concern as they are entering quarter one and not everything is signed and completed yet. Brenda also states she is not showing up on worker's comp and thought it was supposed to be taken care of through Montana Association of Counties (MACo). She has also not signed a contract yet as the grant manager for the county for AgriOne's grant. She also states she is concerned about the lack of communication.

Carol Larson, Public, asks if the county gets paid from the tribe after they help with the fire currently spreading on the reservation.

Commissioner Bremner comment that the state of emergency will allow them to apply for assistance and money but they haven't declared the state of emergency yet and it has been postponed.

K. Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – Cut Bank

Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; meeting adjourned @ 11:09 a.m.