

**Glacier County Commissioners
Thursday, April 29, 2021
Regular Meeting (GoToMtg)
Cut Bank, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 29, 2021. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner & Michael J. DesRosier were present. Commissioner John B. Overcast was absent-sick and Austin Parrent taking minutes.

Present at the Meeting: Stephanie Eney, Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce President; Chrissy Grimm, Glacier Property Group; Carol Larson, Public; Janine R. Scott, Clerk of District Court; LeAnne Kavanagh, Press; Laurie Elhard, Public; Marlene Luedtke, Public; Michael D. Bruch, Public

Present via GoToMtg: (3) Callers; Amy; Brenda Schilling; City Court; Cut Bank Airport Authority; Elaine; Jim Yeagley; Linda Luther; Sarah Converse; TM

A. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner DesRosier motions to approve the agenda for April 29, 2021; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; agenda approved.

C. Approval of the Minutes: n/a

D. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims

**Dated for April 29, 2021
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT**

<i>FUND</i>	<i>ACCOUNT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
1000	General Fund	\$ 25,092.28
2110	Road Fund	\$ 20,050.13
2140	Weed Control	\$ 195.63
2180	County District Court	\$ 203.04
2220	Library	\$ 1,707.32
2230	Ambulance	\$ 348.24
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 9,052.42
2360	Museum	\$ 711.95
2410	Glacier Park Lights	\$ 529.52
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 501.93
2863	Glacier County Transit	\$ 163.30
2918	Sheriff Law Enf Grant - Stonegarden	\$ 1,055.19
2960	Health Grants - Emerg Prep	\$ 2,075.65
2971	WIC	\$ 52.52
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 208.77
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 61,947.89
	PAYROLL	\$ 167,593.57
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 229,541.46

NEW BUSINESS:

E. Discussion/Approval: Mercantile Building – Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

Chrissy Grimm and her husband own Glacier Property Group which is a redevelopment company located here in Glacier County. They have put the public drug building located at 4 West Main Street under contract to purchase and redevelop. The Mercantile building is a county owned building that they have two major concerns about.

The first is the foundation wall that the public drug building and Mercantile building share. If the property moves forward with demolition and it is done incorrectly then the integrity of both buildings will become compromised and the public drug building will become uninhabitable. If this were to occur, they will not be purchasing the public drug building. This will also reduce the likelihood of other buyers purchasing the building as well.

Their second concern is the vandalism and break-ins that are taking place in the buildings. People are accessing the mercantile to access the public drug building. There have been broken windows and they've also found remnants of possible fire starter, not to mention the dumping and drug use that is going on in the building. It's a problem that affects their redevelopment while also affecting other businesses along central corridor.

They are hopeful that with the process that was started a number of years ago through the Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce that they can work with the chamber, Glacier County, and the City of Cut Bank to try and move the demolition forward in a safe way that will keep the integrity of the building without changing central avenue. Chrissy stated in her email that they feel very strongly that they can remove the majority of the structure of the mercantile while keeping the facade for its historical value.

They would like to work with the county by using the \$7,000.00 that was approved in the July 5, 2016 commissioner meeting for abatement costs and related fees. The Department of Environmental Quality (D.E.Q.) agreed to remove the roof that contains asbestos. Chrissy spoke with the D.E.Q. and they will continue that commitment and remove the roof as long as the building is county owned. The county has also received a grant from the Glacier County Regional Port Authority for \$10,000.00 for the purpose of excavation.

In order for D.E.Q. to remove the roof, Glacier County would have to apply for it. Based on a conversation that Chrissy had with the D.E.Q. yesterday, the money that would be needed to remove the asbestos roof was set aside for Glacier County a few years ago. The reason the abatement had not been completed was because once the roof is removed it will leave a gaping hole into the building. At the time they could not get a commitment from Glacier County to remove the rest of the building. D.E.Q. felt it was unsafe to take the roof off at that time.

Chrissy states that D.E.Q. told her the money was no longer set aside to remove the roof, however, she was told that the funding would be approved if Glacier County were to commit towards the mercantile building's demolition.

Commissioner Bremner has been in talks with Treasurer Don Wilson in regard to the mercantile building and would like to move forward, she will see about whether the Treasurer or the Commissioners will need to apply for D.E.Q. to remove the roof. If it is not with the Treasurer, they will have Chancy Kittson, Glacier County C.F.O. apply to have it done.

Commissioner DesRosier brought up the possibility of transferring the property through other means such as the Glacier County Regional Port Authority but only after the roof has been taken care of. This was after he asked if Glacier Property Group was intending to combine the two properties into one and Chrissy responded they would like to have them merged together.

Commissioner Bremner also sent the maintenance department over to close up the building with large screws and break ins are still occurring. There was mention of a temporary chain link fence that could possibly be put up with a no trespassing sign to try and make it more difficult to access the building.

Stephanie Eney, Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce President, states that if anything is needed from the chamber to keep this process moving forward, they can let her know.

Chrissy also mentioned that if the D.E.Q. does the asbestos abatement of the roof then they are going to require a historical plaque be placed either on the façade or if the façade is gone then in that parking area or right on central that explains the history and significance of the building. The D.E.Q. have already created the plaque and Glacier Property Group was asked if they were to own the public drug building and eventually the mercantile, if they would allow it to be attached to both buildings. Chrissy said they would be honored to have that piece of history attached to their property.

Commissioner Bremner thanks everyone for coming and states they will talk with the necessary parties to move the process forward.

Public Comment

Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development, states there should be a phase one original assessment that was completed and that should have all of the historical knowledge. Those assessments are only good for six months if they need anything further. There should be quite a bit of information with the original assessment.

F. Discussion/Approval: Opening in Clerk's Office – Janine R. Scott, Clerk of District Court

Janine R. Scott, Clerk of District Court, reads a letter to the Glacier County Commissioners:



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Glacier County Courthouse
512 E. Main
Cut Bank, MT 59427
Office (406) 873-3619 Fax (406) 873-5627
e-mail: janine.scott@mt.gov

Twila Pyette, Chief Deputy 873-3617
e-mail: tpyette@mt.gov
Lisa Sammons, Deputy 873-3618
e-mail: lisa.sammons@mt.gov

April 28, 2021

Mary Jo Bremner, Chair
Michael DesRosier
John Overcast

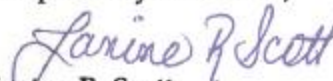
Re: Clerk of District Court Position

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter to advise the Board of County Commissioners that I will be retiring on June 30, 2021. I have enjoyed my 26 years in the Clerk of Court's Office and especially the last ten years serving as Clerk. It has been a privilege to serve all of the residents of Glacier County and I am thankful for their support. I do know that the time has come to retire and pursue the next chapter in my life.

I highly recommend and encourage the Board to appoint Twila Pyette, Chief Deputy, as interim Clerk to serve until a new Clerk is duly elected and installed (7-4-2206(2)(a) MCA.) Twila has been working in the Clerk's office for over 28 years and has the experience, extensive knowledge, and desire to continue the ongoing work with the large case load in District Court. Her appointment will provide continuity in this transition and allow uninterrupted essential services in the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,


Janine R. Scott
Clerk of District Court

The commissioners thank Janine for her service and there is additional discussion had on retirement. It was briefly mentioned that they would add the interim Clerk of District Court to the agenda at a later date to discuss the process.

OTHER BUSINESS:

G. Public Comment

Sarah Converse, Sweet Grass Development, has additional information on the mercantile building assessments which can be found at the end of item E.

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Carol Larson, Public, asks if all the vandalisms that are occurring in the mercantile building cause the police to check on the building frequently. Commissioner Bremner answers that they do and that the people breaking in and vandalizing the building get very creative at getting around attempts to stop entry into the building.

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LeAnne Kavanagh, Press, asks if there is a plan going forward for the Library since the library director Jamie Greco is retiring and her last day is April 30, 2021. Commissioner Bremner states that she will talk with Human Resources Director Mike Kittson to figure out what the current Library director's salary is in order to help the Library board move forward with their advertising for the position.

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Michael Bruch, representing Court Appointed Special Advocates (C.A.S.A.), who's role is to sponsor kids that are in foster care and follow them through the legal system. They have over fifty kids currently and serve over one hundred kids in Glacier County every year. Right now, it's the four county District Court that includes Toole, Pondera, and Teton County along with Glacier County. In the past, Glacier County has been generous in helping with the program but in the last few years they have not even made a request given Glacier County's financial situation. They've been pretty successful in their fundraising but their fundraising requires that they get local support. He is going to ask the commissioners in the near future to support C.A.S.A. and request an amount that is currently undetermined. The county's support will help with their grant writing and other fundraising efforts.

Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development, states there may be some funding coming through in House Bill 632, the Montana Economic Developers Association is watching closely for infrastructure, economic development, and health services funding that C.A.S.A. can possibly utilize through that bill. The commissions have to meet and have their plans together by June 1, 2021.

H. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 4, 2021 – Cut Bank

Commissioner DesRosier motions to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.