

Glacier County Commissioners
Tuesday, June 22, 2021
Regular Meeting
Browning, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 22, 2021. Commissioners Michael J. DesRosier, Mary Jo Bremner and John B. Overcast was present.

Present at the Meeting: Shannon Pepion, Glacier County Maintenance Supervisor; Jason Canney, Preferred IT Systems; Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director; Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer; Belinda Bullshoe, Public; Diana Burd, Public; John McGill, Press; John “Snoop” Evans, Glacier County Road Supervisor; Nora Kennedy, Blackfeet Tribe Ambulance Director

A. Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner DesRosier motions to approve the agenda; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

C. Reading of the Minutes: n/a

NEW BUSINESS:

D. Discussion/Approval: Renew IT contract with Jason Canney, Preferred IT Systems – Mike Kittson, Human Resources Director & Shannon Pepion, Maintenance Department Head

Commissioner DesRosier gives an explanation of how the IT contract was approved in the past. He also explains that Jason Canney, Preferred IT was with another business in the past, but broke off from them and is an independent contractor now for those services.

Commissioner Bremner would like to ask a question about the Browning Satellite Office and if the IT contract would increase because of what will need to be done. Jason Canney, Preferred IT Systems states that it will not increase because it’s just encompassing of the work there will be cost involved for the hardware, but all of my labor for the county is included in this contract. Commissioner DesRosier asks if there are any changes to the contract. Jason states that they did make a few changes to the contract where it was a 24-month contract and changed it to a 36-month contract. Also, there is a Cost-of-Living Increase that will bring his wage from \$3,950.00 to \$4,068.00. Jason states that there might be another paragraph that changed, but he’s not sure where it is at in the contract.

Commissioner DesRosier states that there is a clause in the contract that allows the commissioners to change the contract and/or cancel it.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to renew the IT contract with Jason Canney, Preferred IT Systems; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

After the motion is made it is mentioned by Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director & Shannon Pepion, Glacier County Maintenance Supervisor that he would

like the commissioners to be aware that IT services has been moved from supervision by the Commissioners to Shannon Pepion, GC Maintenance Supervisor. Also, the maintenance budget will take care of the payment starting in the new Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Shannon states that if anyone has an IT problem they can go to Jason or I to get it fixed. Discussion continues that the payment of this contract was approved three times, but it was never implemented to reflect in the maintenance budget.

E. Discussion/Approval: Letter of Support for Search and Rescue – Belinda Bullshoe

Belinda Bullshoe & Diana Burd, Public are present for this item. Belinda starts by introducing herself and explaining that she has been involved with the search for Arden Pepion a young girl who has been missing on the Blackfeet Reservation since April 22, 2021. Belinda explains that she wasn't aware that Glacier County doesn't have access to search & rescue equipment to fully help in a search for an individual. She explains that there is a grant through MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) and they would like to apply for the equipment that they need to assist in a search & rescue in the future. There is a discussion on how a Search & Rescue department is set up and that there is MCA to help with how it should be organized. Commissioner DesRosier does talk about how the old search & rescue under the county was included in the Sheriff department and we did have snowmobiles, 4-wheelers and other equipment that was purchased. Commissioner Bremner asks Belinda & Diana what they would like to have in the letter of support. Diana explains the frustration of what wasn't available and that they just need a general letter of support to explain what they will be needing to apply for to assist in every search & rescue. Commissioner Bremner states that she will get a letter drafted that will be in support to get this grant. There is a lengthy discussion on the coordination of the searches with Arden Pepion & Leo Wagner who are both missing on the Blackfeet Reservation and haven't been found to this date.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to write a letter of support in applying for a grant for Search & Rescue for Belinda Bullshoe & Diana Burd. Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

F. Public Comment

There is discussion on the Browning Fire Department & the benefit that was there when the Town of Browning was operating.

John "Snoop" Evans, Glacier County Road Supervisor is present to inform the commissioners about the teeth for his grader's will be going up in price on July 1, 2021. He wanted to discuss this with the commissioners because the cost will be over \$5000.00 for the teeth grader purchase. Commissioner Bremner would like to put this item on the agenda for proper approval on Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Nora Kennedy, Blackfeet Tribe Ambulance Director is present to address her concerns about the Babb Ambulance/EMS Services. She would like to know what's going on with it. Commissioner DesRosier states that we needed to get out of the ambulance business when we couldn't get the voters to approve the mill levy to support the operation of the Glacier

County EMS department. He talks about the billing being behind with Indian Health Service and Glacier County not receiving approximately five million in payments to Glacier County EMS. He talks about the settlement and we had a lot of finance issues in keeping the EMS program going. Our choice was to shut down the services or give it over to somebody else. Northern Rockies Medical Center stepped up and wanted to take over the Glacier County EMS program and make it their own. They are maintaining the operation in Glacier County right now. They have a lengthy discussion on the EMS program in Glacier County. The commissioners give Nora contact information for Cheri Taylor, NRMCC CEO. Nora asks what their plans are for the Babb EMS Barn? Commissioner DesRosier states that they really don't have a plan on what they will do with it at this time. They discuss the lack of cell service in the Glacier National Park area. Nora would like to see the Blackfoot Tribe and Glacier County work together to get all services in area's lacking ems services.

Don Wilson, Treasurer gives an update. It's been a while since anything has been done with delinquent taxes in Glacier County, but I'm going to do the delinquent tax process. First thing that I need to do is put notice in the paper. I need to have the tax liens filed by July 23, 2021. On August 2, 2021 we open the doors to allow people to purchase these liens and it's the process that will give people the opportunity to own this property. He would like to have a public auction at the Glacier County Courthouse. Treasurer Wilson talks about the process and what the steps are to get this done. He mentions that his list consists of delinquent taxes from 2014 to 2020. Commissioner Bremner states that Treasurer Wilson should get on a future agenda for the approval to have a Public Auction for the delinquent taxes for Glacier County.

G. Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 23, 2021 – Babb

Commissioner DesRosier motions to adjourn at 10:16 a.m.; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.