

**Glacier County Commissioners
Thursday, July 8, 2021
Regular Meeting (GoToMtg)
Cut Bank, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2021. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, Michael DesRosier, and John B. Overcast were present and Austin Parrent taking minutes.

Present at the meeting: Marlene Luedtke, Public; John Wurz, Horizon Colony; Mike Wurz, Horizon Colony; LeAnne Kavanagh, Press

Present via GoToMeeting: Brenda Schilling; Carolyn Berkram; Elaine; Gloria; Kim Stoltz; Not Applicable; TM

A. Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of the Minutes: n/a

D. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims

**Dated for July 8, 2021
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT**

<i>FUND</i>	<i>ACCOUNT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
1000	General Fund	\$ 32,417.51
2110	Road Fund	\$ 27,840.42
2140	Weed Control	\$ 749.83
2180	County District Court	\$ 432.39
2220	Library	\$ 965.04
2230	Ambulance	\$ 752.71
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 22,897.44
2390	Sheriff's Drug Force	\$ 246.34
2410	Glacier Park Lights	\$ 529.30
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 78,043.10
2960	Health Grants - Emerg Prep	\$ 16,950.38
2976	Immunization Grant	\$ 30.63
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 150.84
7901	Hospital/NRMC Fund	\$ 114,000.00
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 296,005.93
	PAYROLL	\$ 196,135.49
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 492,141.42

There was a brief discussion between the commissioners on the dying grass that surrounds the Browning Library and the New Satellite Office building that was purchased earlier this year. They discussed having Maintenance Department Head Shannon Pepion water the grounds to make the grass grow.

NEW BUSINESS:

E. Discussion/Approval: Horizon Colony – Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

Members of the Horizon Hutterite Colony present their storm drainage system which will route rain water runoff into a nearby man-made holding pond. This water source will then serve as a source of water for livestock, their garden and to supply nearby fire hydrants that will be located next to their buildings. It is estimated that the holding pond will be able to hold roughly five million gallons of water.

The water rights to be able to collect the rain water are still pending with the State of Montana. They are currently working with an engineer based out of Helena that is helping them apply for the Competitive Grant Application through the American Rescue Plan Act (A.R.P.A.) Water & Sewer Infrastructure Grant. In order for their application to be considered it must have the support of the local governing body. The grant funds if awarded will have to pass through Glacier County and the commissioners will need to sign a certification to receive the funds if they are awarded for this project.

There was additional discussion in the meeting about a clause that could be added to the application stating that the ultimate responsibility of the funds would be with Horizon Hutterite Colony if forfeiture of grant funds were to occur.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to support Horizon Colony’s Competitive Grant Application for the American Rescue Plan Act (A.R.P.A.) Water & Sewer Infrastructure Grant Application and to write a letter of support; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

F. Discussion/Approval: House Bill 102: Concealed Weapons Carry in Buildings – Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

A letter from the Montana Department of Administration, General Services Division had been received by the Glacier County Commissioners dated for June 17, 2021. It mentions that House Bill 102 recently came into effect which expanded the places where guns may be carried. It also states that Glacier County, being the property owner of the building, may decide whether or not to allow possession of weapons within the building that the state leases from Glacier County.

Whatever decision is reached, the State of Montana requests that Glacier County post their policy on all entrances to the building so that State employees and the public will know and be able to follow the policy. The letter is addressed to the Courthouse Annex, 1210 East Main Street, Suite #13 and mentions Lease #: 6453-B in the header. The state would like to be notified of the policy that is reached and also has weapons notice stickers available for Glacier County’s optional use.

The Glacier County Commissioners discussed their views and stances on firearms. They decided that even though they are not against firearms themselves, it would be in everyone’s

best interest to not allow firearms in Glacier County owned buildings that are frequently used by the public. The specific buildings mentioned were the Glacier County Courthouse, the Courthouse Annex, and the Browning Satellite Office.

Public Comment:

LeAnne Kavanagh, Press, asks if the Library and the Museum will be included as well. The response by the commission was that these buildings would likely be included as well as any other Glacier County owned buildings that have the public utilizing them.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to post notices that no firearms or weapons are allowed inside Glacier County owned buildings that are utilized by the public;

Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

G. Public Comment

LeAnne Kavanagh, Press, asks if this is around the time the compensation board meets so that people know about a plan. The response by Commissioner Bremner and Commissioner DesRosier was that the budget process and addressing the compensation board is under the Clerk & Recorder through Montana Code Annotated (M.C.A.). LeAnne responds that the compensation board has specific M.C.A. (7-4-2503) that is completely separate from the budget and lists when they meet, who is on it, and what their responsibilities are so that they can come to the commission with their recommendations. It's then up to the commissioners to decide if they will follow the compensation board's recommended compensation schedule.

LeAnne states that there was always a concern on longevity for the sheriffs if there was a wage freeze. Teton County was able to work around this issue by giving everyone a \$1.00 raise for the entire year which maintained longevity for their sheriffs because it was still technically an increase from the prior year's compensation. This has not been done in Glacier County but it would help avoid penalizing employees' longevity which suffers when there is a wage freeze.

H. Next Meeting – Tuesday, July 13, 2021 – Browning

Commissioner DesRosier motions to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.