

Glacier County Commissioners
Thursday, August 19, 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, August 19, 2021. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, Michael J. DesRosier and John B. Overcast were present. Clerk & Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly taking minutes.

Present at the meeting: Linda Luther, Public; Austin Castle, Interim Library Director; Carol Larson, Public; Becky Kimmet, Glacier County Library Board Member; Laurie Elhard, Public; Jimmy Racine, Glacier County Weed Department

Present via GoToMeeting: Brenda Schilling; Elaine; Gloria; Jimmy; Kim Stoltz; LeAnne; TM; User17

A. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

One approval item was added to the end of the agenda for August 19, 2021:

H. Approval: July 2021 Cash Report - Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the agenda for August 19, 2021; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; agenda approved.

C. Approval of the Minutes: 6/3 & 6/8/2021

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the minutes for 6/3 & 6/8/2021; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; minutes approved.

D. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims

Dated for August 19, 2021
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

<i>FUND</i>	<i>ACCOUNT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
1000	General Fund	\$ 57,394.66
2110	Road Fund	\$ 21,556.47
2140	Weed Control	\$ 1,302.74
2180	County District Court	\$ 65.25
2220	Library	\$ 841.81
2230	Ambulance	\$ 146.91
2250	City/County Planning	\$ 1,000.00
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 7,698.37
2410	Glacier Park Lights	\$ 529.22
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 769.83
2863	Glacier County Transit	\$ 590.28
2918	Sheriff Law Enf Grant - Stonegarden	\$ 346.18
2968	Chronic Disease Prevention Grant	\$ 72.49
2976	Immunization Grant	\$ 79.00
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 165.44
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 92,558.65
	PAYROLL	\$ 193,810.89
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 286,369.54

NEW BUSINESS:

E. Discussion/Approval: Appoint Glacier County Library Director - Glacier County Commissioners

Becky Kimmet, Glacier County Library Board Member, talks about two interviews that were held on July 15, 2021 by the library board for the Glacier County Library Director position that is currently open. They had a full board at the time of the interviews which included Nick Hudak, Crystal Evans, Renee Lowery, and Becky Kimmet herself. The library board reached a decision and is recommending that Austin Castle be appointed as the Glacier County Library Director. He has been serving as the Interim Glacier County Library Director since May 3, 2021 and has been doing a good job keeping things running and keeping the library open for at least a few hours per day to serve the public.

Becky states that there was a communication problem between the library board chair Nick Hudak and Glacier County Human Resources Director Mike Kittson regarding their recommendation for the position. Nick resigned on Sunday, July 25, 2021 from his position on the library board and Becky started communications with Mike on Monday, July 26, 2021 to see that their recommendation could be finalized and continue forward through the library board's transition. After everything was finalized, they notified the candidates of their decision on August 3, 2021 by mail.

Becky continues to talk about drafting a letter regarding the hours for the position. It is supposed to be a full-time job but due to the library's budget constraints, Austin Castle has decided to continue working part-time in the position until the library receives its finalized budget for Fiscal Year 2022. The library board recommends that the commissioners approve Austin Castle as the Glacier County Library Director.

Commissioner Bremner asks if Austin will pursue a license or a library degree of any kind. Her concern is that the library grants that she would like him to obtain require that the library director be licensed to be eligible. Becky states that according to the job description for the position he will need to obtain secondary licensing or education for the position at some point. Commissioner Bremner would like the library board to investigate it further and states that she looked at Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 10-102-150A which has all the library constraints for running a library and board member terms too. She would like the board to make sure they follow these requirements and check into the length of board member terms as well. Becky states that in their bylaws their terms of office are for five years.

Becky briefly mentions the trouble they have had in recent meetings with not meeting the minimum number of board members present to have a quorum. One of their members was asked if they would like to remain on the board because they missed those two meetings. If three consecutive meetings are missed, then the third person on the board who was not attending the meetings could be removed and that third person was made aware of that.

On July 15, 2021 the Glacier County Library Board had a quorum to approve the recommendation that Austin Castle become the Glacier County Library Director.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to approve the Glacier County Library Board's recommendation that Austin Castle become the Glacier County Library Director; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

F. Discussion/Approval: Appoint (2) Glacier County Library Board Members - Glacier County Library Board & Glacier County Commissioners

Austin Castle presents the commissioners with information about the number of applicants for the library board. They received six letters of interest for the two library board member positions that are available. The library board reviewed all six and decided to recommend that Claire Stone and Kasey Connors be appointed to the library board as its newest members.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to approve the library board's recommendation to appoint Claire Stone and Kasey Connors to the Glacier County Library Board; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

G. Discussion: Weeds in Glacier County - Glacier County Commissioners

Jimmy Racine, Weed Department, explains that they maintain their county right of ways first. Any county road within the county and any county property that is owned has its noxious weeds maintained. Any weed that is on the Montana State Noxious Weeds list gets maintained, as well as some noxious weeds that get added to that list that are prevalent within Glacier County. A weed management plan gets submitted to the State of Montana every two years to add noxious weeds that are specific to Glacier County. They do not spray or manage nuisance weeds such as dandelions or kochia.

Jimmy explains that they also contract with the Montana Department of Transportation (M.D.T.) and they spray their right of ways that run through Glacier County. Which means that state highways and their right of ways get sprayed as well. In the past they used to spray eight roads and their right of ways for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (B.I.A.) but due to their funding cuts they have not contracted Glacier County to continue spraying those roads. The Glacier County Weed Department also used to spray the entrances going into the parks such as Many Glaciers, Two Medicine, and Chief Mountain Junction but their funding got cut as well.

Jimmy lists several other entities that used to contract the Glacier County Weed Department. He explains that the going rate for the department to be contracted is \$115.00 per hour for a piece of equipment plus the wages of the crew that operate the equipment as well as chemical costs. This is the charge rate for governmental agencies that contract the Glacier County Weed Department. They do not spray for private property.

Occasionally he gets calls from the public who state that they are taxpayers and therefore the Glacier County Weed Department should be spraying their land. Jimmy must explain to them that they are taxpayers, however, they are paying taxes to maintain the right of ways which the public uses to travel on, which is what the weed department sprays for.

On a final note, they also maintain the right of ways that run through the Blackfeet Reservation and keep them sprayed as well. They do not have jurisdiction to spray anywhere other than those right of ways on tribal land.

Commissioner Bremner asks about a weed that she saw on social media called Western Hemlock. Jimmy states that it is a very poisonous weed that is toxic to animals, livestock, and humans. When the grass is short on certain years, cattle start looking for other sources of food and consume this weed which is where cattle losses can start to occur. Even though it is not a noxious weed it is dangerous and if seen in Glacier County right of ways the Glacier County Weed Department would like to know. They will make sure to take care of it to help avoid it from spreading.

Commissioner DesRosier mentions that an advertisement in the paper would be helpful to explain to the public what the Glacier County Weed Department does and does not do. This would help answer most questions that the commissioners are receiving and reduce confusion on how the weed department functions.

There is additional discussion on timing an advertisement to go out next spring due to it being so late in the weed department's season. There is also discussion on controlling certain types of weeds and how certain licenses must be obtained to spray in town as opposed to outside city limits. Farmers spraying their fields was also mentioned. Due to the Farm Service Agency's (F.S.A.) good neighbor clause fields can not go untreated and must be sprayed or planted into something else. More discussion is had on specific types of weeds and the chemicals used to combat their spread.

The commissioners thank Jimmy Racine for coming in and presenting and answering questions they have been getting from the public on weed management within Glacier County.

ADDITION TO AGENDA:

H. Approval: July 2021 Cash Report - Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

The July 2021 Cash Report was received on Monday, August 16, 2021.

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the July 2021 Cash Report; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

I. Public Comment

LeAnne Kavanagh, Press, tells Commissioner Bremner that she is attending the meeting via GoToMeeting and if she has answers to her questions on the July 2021 Cash Report, she can answer them now if she would like. Commissioner Bremner responds to LeAnne and states she has asked about those questions but has not received an answer yet and will go to the Treasurer's office to find out and will email her later.

J. Next Meeting - Tuesday, August 24, 2021 - Browning

Commissioner DesRosier motions to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.