

**Glacier County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, August 24, 2021**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Browning, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, Michael J. DesRosier, and John B. Overcast were present with Austin Parrent taking minutes.

**Present at the meeting:** John McGill, Press

**A. Roll Call**

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

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner DesRosier motions to approve the August 24, 2021 agenda; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; agenda approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**C. Discussion: Browning Community Concerns/Issues**

- Commissioner Bremner discusses the progress being made on the new Browning Satellite Office building on S.E. Boundary Street in Browning. One of the maintenance men mudded and painted the walls. There is still some work remaining to be done on the floors and Shannon Pepion, Maintenance Department Head, is currently looking into how much it will cost. She further states that the Glacier County Health Department would like to have a clinic in the building and will discuss hours of operation later once a plan has been finalized. The only costs for the building so far have been the mudding and paint for the walls.
- There is additional discussion on getting Siyeh Communications to put in a fiber optic cable connected to the one that exists at Glacier Family Foods to allow for high-speed internet access within the building. It will run between the unused alleys between the two buildings.
- Commissioner DesRosier mentions he would like to get the lease for the satellite office warehouse resolved quickly. He states that he feels bad that the businesses that thought they would be able to lease the warehouse from Glacier County were not able to right away. The process for a short-term lease had been started but because of legal concerns on whether Glacier County should lease the building to local businesses had been raised they had to wait before the lease could be finalized.
- Commissioner Bremner states that the American Rescue Plan Act (A.R.P.A.) funds might be able to pay for the fiber optic that will also connect the part of the building that is intended to be a voting center. No A.R.P.A. funding has been spent yet and further research on how the money can be spent is still ongoing. The first report for the A.R.P.A. funds spending is due on August 31, 2021 and is being taken care of by

Chief Financial Officer Chancy Kittson who will report a spending total of zero dollars on the report since the A.R.P.A. funds have not been spent yet.

- Commissioner Overcast asks what is currently wrong with the floor in the new Satellite Office Building. Commissioner Bremner responds that the concrete is chipped and needs to be repaired to level the floor before carpet squares can be installed.
- Commissioner DesRosier mentions that in the past the Glacier County Road Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs (B.I.A.), and the Blackfeet Tribe all used to meet about upcoming winter issues, emergency responses, and other important topics to try and coordinate their efforts. It is mentioned that the Glacier County Road Department should be invited during the next commissioner meeting to come in and give the commissioners an update on jurisdiction before calls start coming in about plowing roads once it starts to snow.
- There was a discussion about public dumping in and around the Cut Bank Mercantile Building and a situation that arose involving a couch that was left near a dumpster in the alley. The commissioners discuss moving forward on the Mercantile Building. Commissioner DesRosier mentions selling the building so that it will no longer be owned by Glacier County. Commissioner Overcast states that in order to do that the asbestos roof needs to be taken care of first and that the State of Montana (Montana Department of Environmental Quality) would be willing to help fund the abatement of the roof.
- Commissioner DesRosier mentions another issue which is the lack of affordable housing in Glacier County. He states that Opportunities, Inc. is focused on providing housing for low-income people and that affordable housing is currently a statewide issue. He spoke with the director, who is looking to direct her attention to Browning. In the past they have done a lot in Cascade County, and they recently purchased a fourplex in Cut Bank that they are going to making available for affordable housing. They would like to investigate the possibility of exploring new construction in Browning that would be outside the role that the Blackfeet Housing Authority currently undertakes which could help with affordable housing in the area.
- The commissioners discuss the possibility of donating property to the local food bank so that they have a place of operation. The property would need to have parking and be large enough for semi-trucks to back into and unload food from. They would like to use the Harvest Food Bank in Cut Bank as an example to work from for this project.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **D. Public Comment**

There is no public comment.

### **E. Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 25, 2021 - Babb**

Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.