

Glacier County Commissioners
Thursday, January 20, 2022
Regular Meeting (gotomtg)
Cut Bank, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 am on Thursday, January 20, 2022. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, John B. Overcast, and Michael J. DesRosier were present. Austin Parrent was taking minutes.

Present at the meeting: Jake Gustafson and Travis Clark, Leavitt Group Insurance; Claire Stone and Becky Kimmet, Glacier County Library Board; Jim Yeagley, Glacier County Planner; Austin Castle, Glacier County Library Director; Vananda Yazzie, Glacier County Browning Library Clerk; LeAnne Kavanagh, Pioneer Press; Carol Larson, Laurie Elhard, Public.

Present via GoToMeeting: (1) Caller; Claire Stone; Elaine Mitchell; Gloria; Kim Stoltz; Linda Luther; Sanford Stone; Sarah Converse, TM.

A. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the agenda with no changes; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; motion carried.

C. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims

Dated for January 20, 2022

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

FUND	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
1000	General Fund	\$ 36,125.54
2110	Road Fund	\$ 19,058.60
2140	Weed Control	\$ 4,826.68
2180	County District Court	\$ 793.94
2220	Library	\$ 2,158.09
2230	Ambulance	\$ 1,998.20
2250	City-County Planning	\$ 1,000.00
2260	Emergency Disaster (DES)	\$ 386.85
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 17,408.78
2360	Museum	\$ 2,312.07
2394	Records Preservation Fund (C&R)	\$ 6,871.51
2410	Glacier Park Lights	\$ 529.59
2863	Glacier County Transit	\$ 324.27
2918	Sheriff Law Enforcement Grant (Stonegarden)	\$ 7,988.22
2976	Immunization Grant	\$ 283.08
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 896.07
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 102,961.49
	PAYROLL	\$ 189,071.94
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 292,033.43

NEW BUSINESS:

D. Public Hearing (9:30 a.m.): Glacier County 3% Marijuana Tax, Pursuant to Section 16-12-311, MCA – Glacier County Commissioners

Commissioner Bremner states that this is a 3% tax which would be shared with the local governments. Cut Bank would receive funding and if Browning & East Glacier were incorporated, they would as well. We cannot condone marijuana sales on the Blackfeet Tribal Land because it is federal. In the first week of sales Montana got over one million in marijuana sales. She states that they will be having two more Public Hearings and we will make sure the tax can be voted for on the ballot in 2022. Commissioner DesRosier states that the State allows 3% tax, neighboring counties did not get the votes to approve recreational sales. This tax will benefit our county, expenses can be covered by this revenue. New Sheriff equipment can help with detention for DUI's. It has its medical uses, etc..... Mentions law did not say incorporated so communities can benefit from revenue from this tax as well. Commissioner Overcast wonders if the State will have compliance officers. Commissioner DesRosier states that the state does, but county will not need to. Commissioner Bremner states that people will need to be over 21 years of age to use legally. Regulations from the state will need to be met, such as spending designations. There is further discussion that they should do the max of 3% tax just like Cascade County. They talk about the effects of people being arrested and that may cause our local jails to have a lack of space.

Public Comment:

LeAnne Kavanagh, Press asks if tax revenue designations for spending will be announced in the next meeting? Commissioner Bremner states they will get it figured out and will announce spending designations for the tax revenue and where it will be spent. LeAnne asks if the 3% tax applies to all marijuana sales or medical marijuana and if they've checked with legal counsel. Commissioner Bremner states all medical marijuana sales as we've checked with MACo. LeAnne asks for a copy of the MACo recommendation sent to the commissioners. Commissioner Bremner states that she will get a copy made for her. Commissioner Bremner states that they will make a list for additional questions and have the Sheriff attend to answer other questions. LeAnne states that the 3% revenue would probably include neighboring counties. So potentially you could have outside revenue to help fund some of these problems you are having, such as extra jail space. LeAnne also asks if they could get more information on when the revenue will be realized. Do you have to wait 90 days if voted in, but when will MT Department of Revenue give the county, it's cut and issue payment. Commissioner Bremner states that it is a good question, and they will make sure they ask. Jim Yeagley, Glacier County Planner states that the City of Cut Bank's position was that federal is still illegal, so it is not allowed in city limits.

E. Discussion/Approval: Task Order – STD Disease Intervention Specialist FTE – Melissa Laverdure, Acting Public Health Director

Commissioner Bremner states that Melissa Laverdure, Glacier County Health Department Acting Director is unable to attend. Therefore, I will present the new grant for her, and we

will approve. The new grant is for a STD Disease Intervention Specialist in the amount of \$42,760.00 a year. It will be funded through the end of 2025. This will allow the department to fund a part-time position for a Disease Intervention Specialist to do STD work including investigations, contact tracing and education to the community. The funding will be reimbursed monthly. When the work is done the funding will be reimbursed monthly from an invoice to the State. Commissioner DesRosier states that these grants keep the department funded and they have the best funding they've ever had.

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve Task Order Number 22-07-4-51-016-0 STD Disease Intervention Specialist FTE in the amount of \$42,760; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; motion carried.

F. Discussion/Approval: Amended Dosch Minor Subdivision – Jim Yeagley, Glacier County Planner

Jim Yeagley, Glacier County Planner is present to explain the Amended Dosch Minor Subdivision. He states that the planning board reviewed the change and it's two houses on a lot, and this will be splitting that out. The planning board recommends conditional approval as long as DEQ approves it.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to approve the Amended Dosch Minor Subdivision with the condition of DEQ approval first; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

G. Discussion/Approval: Library Update – Glacier County Library Board of Trustees

Austin Castle, Glacier County Library Director; Becky Kimmet & Claire Stone, Glacier County Library Board of Trustees are present to give an update on the last two years for the Browning & Cut Bank Libraries. They stated that 2021 had a lot of challenges such as hiring a new director, appointing three new library board members, the water leak in the Browning Library. We have been working towards progressing and getting the problem fixed. Austin & Vananda Yazzie, Browning Library Clerk are the only two employees for the library at the moment and the Browning Library is not in working condition. There is a discussion on the ProClean bill for the Browning Library and that the bill was enormous and there is still mold in the building. Commissioner DesRosier states that this is a problem for the Glacier County Attorney to solve. It is mentioned that it is not safe for Vananda to return to the Browning Library and it's definitely not in any condition to open any time soon. Claire asks if it would be possible to use ARPA funding. Commissioner Bremner states that she's pretty sure the library is off the table for ARPA funding. Becky states that they will find out next month on a few grants. There is a discussion on the enormous amount of time & work Austin has put in with communication back and forth with the Insurance & other departments on the Browning Library situation. Commissioner DesRosier suggested that they think about combining with the Blackfeet Community College Library. Claire mentions that the State Library is helping them with trainings and that they would like to partner with them in any way moving forward. Becky also mentions that Tracy Cook, State Library has been a huge help to our library. Commissioner Bremner thanks the board and states that the library is a focal point of the community.

H. Discussion/Approval: ARPA Project Manager – Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

Commissioner Bremner states that she would like someone in-house to manage the ARPA funds. She states that Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director is out on sick leave, and she would like to table this item until he can attend the meeting.

**Commissioner DesRosier motions to table this agenda item for a later date;
Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

I. Public Comment

LeAnne Kavanagh, Press asks if the library is Glacier County owned. Commissioner Bremner states “Yes.” LeAnne asks if the Browning Library can be moved into the new Browning Satellite Office building. Commissioner Bremner states that it is possible, but they would need to talk to the library board. Although, the old Browning Library is a historical building and also has community value too. So, just vacating would be difficult for the community.

Claire Stone, Glacier County Library Board Member comes back in the meeting. She states that they need some long-term going forward planning and we would like ideas for right now. But what we are in dire need of right now is some short-term issues taken care of such as bills/insurance claims being taken care of first.

J. Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 25, 2022 – Browning

Commissioner DesRosier motions to adjourn at 10:59 a.m.; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.