Glacier County Commissioners Tuesday, December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Browning, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular meeting scheduled meeting at 9:00 am on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner and John B. Overcast was present. Commissioner Michael J. DesRosier was absent.

Present for the meeting: John McGill, Press

A. Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Overcast motions to accept the agenda with no changes; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

C. Discussion: Sale of Marijuana in Glacier County – Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

Sale of Marijuana is to become open rather than Medicinal only. Medicinal no longer has to remain medicinal but can license too Recreational. Montana is going to assess, using HB01, taxes of 20%. Glacier County will be discussing assessing a 3% tax they are allowed to assess.

In addition to the Cut Bank meeting about that side of the county, it was discussed that due to reservation non-sale status Commissioner Bremner suggested another meeting be held in Browning due to a small strip of land that might become concerning. It was brought to the attention of everyone that we as a county need to be educated before making any moves after relating a suggestion of using go-to meeting to gain and disseminate information by proxy through the state.

Commissioner Bremner stated we have to bring the tax to a vote so must use proper procedures of involving the citizens of this county in the whole process.

Also, it was brought up that we must be aware of the tourist population. We have to regulate enforcement, while balancing the safety and health of the county citizens. The two discussed the city share if participate versus non-participate and what that all would encompass. Glacier County cannot stop a person or persons with marijuana. Press comment of a dry county versus a county where you can buy and therefore bring back to the dry county will be an issue to address publicly.

Ordinances by a city were discussed, compliance officer, tax should be used for those items because the state's 20% would not cover it by the design of the law, as well as the state gains 5% of the county's 3% so the county doesn't get a full 3%. County can designate the money wherever and therefore would need to see what is gained monetarily before decisions are made as to which funds would receive earmarks.

Commissioner Bremner tasked herself with sending the law to the other Commissioners as well as the Executive Administrative Assistant.

Discussion about the effect of the drug and its health benefits was the next issue brought up. Pass through laws would have to be carefully managed due to Blackfeet Tribal governance of the reservation and their collective dry status. The county will have to honor any laws the Blackfeet Business Council have implemented and make sure of all of them before ever addressing anything with regard to this law for the county as a whole. It is a done issue as the vote was overwhelming for allowing Recreational sales within the state. A city can refuse through Ordinances, but a county cannot refuse to allow its sale.

Need to start this right after the first of the year so the county is within compliance with this law. Involve the County Attorney for sure. The tax is very much a county concern. We need a discussion, public comment and vote right away the first of the year. Commissioner Bremner tasked the Executive Administrative Assistant with making this happen.

D. Discussion: Satellite Office (election readiness) – Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Commission Chair

The Satellite Office needs to be ready and able to have the elections held within it and is compliant is a concern right now. Zoom meeting information to Executive Administrative Assistant about Indian Voting Act. December 15 @ 1pm to take notes for Chairwoman Bremner. Commissioner Overcast asked to be included so Chairwoman Bremner tasked Executive Administrative Assistant with notifying all Commissioners about this meeting and taking minutes to be disseminated amongst them.

Siyeh was contacted and Lockley Joe Bremner stated the DSL he can offer would accommodate the bandwidth needed to support the elections within the Satellite Office. It was agreed this would need further discussion and AARPA status with regard to the actual building and its readiness.

E. Discussion/Approval: FY2021 & FY2022 Wipfli Audit Contract Amendment (Single Audit) – Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO

Chancy Kittson is not present for the next agenda item, so Commissioner Bremner attempted to call him and was unable to gain a connection. Commissioner Overcast made a motion to table this discussion about FY 2021/2022 audit until Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO is present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

F. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

G. Next Meeting – Monday, December 20, 2021 – Cut Bank

Meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.