

Glacier County Commissioners
Tuesday, February 1, 2022
Regular Meeting (GoToMtg)
Cut Bank, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, in the commissioners' chambers at the Glacier County Courthouse. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, and John B. Overcast were present. Commissioner Michael J. DesRosier was absent. Austin Parrent taking minutes.

Present at the meeting: Matthew Matusiak, Blackfeet Health; Curtis Harper and Ryan Pitts, Logan Health; Pat Thronson and Steven Lock, Babb EMS; LeAnne Kavanagh, Pioneer Press; Carol Larson and Laurie Elhard, Public.

Present via GoToMeeting: Brenda Schilling, Claire Stone, Elaine, Gloria, John "Snoop" Evans, Kim Stoltz, Linda Luther, Sanford Stone, TM

A. Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Bremner states that she needs to make a couple of changes to the agenda. Commissioner Bremner would like to table the Closed session with the Glacier County Attorney due to illness. Commissioner Bremner would also like to add the lifting of the fire restrictions in Glacier County from Curtis Harper, Acting Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator, to the agenda and table the first two public items (D. and E.) until Commissioner DesRosier is present.

Commissioner Overcast motions to table D., E., and the closed session with the Glacier County Attorney; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; motion carried.

C. Approval of the Minutes: 8/10, 8/16, 8/19, 8/24 & 8/25/2021

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve 8/10, 8/16, 8/19, 8/24, and 8/25/2021; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

D. Discussion/Approval: Personnel Department Change – Mary Jo Bremner, Commissioner Chair

Item has been tabled until a later date.

E. Discussion/Approval: Glacier County 3% Marijuana Tax – Mary Jo Bremner, Commissioner Chair

Item has been tabled until a later date.

F. Discussion/Approval: Glacier County Babb Ambulance – Mary Jo Bremner, Commission Chair

Commissioner Bremner opens meeting after allowing everyone to introduce themselves and thanking Logan Health and Ryan Pitts, Executive Director for Regional EMS Logan Health, for everything they have done for Babb EMS. Ryan Pitts, Logan Health EMS; explains what

his positions entails and who he has been working with to get better EMS collaboration within the region. Ryan also explains how they can help with the cost of supplies, MOUs between other EMS agencies to get together to see what works and implement it. Dr. Matthew Matusiak, Blackfeet Tribal Health; explains how the Blackfeet Tribal Council has tasked him with how the EMS runs within the Reservation and it is a hard job for one person so he has been talking with Ryan about how they can work together. Matthew explains that the Blackfeet Tribal Council would like to have 6-7 ambulances stationed within the Reservation. Matthew explains that he does not like to run an ambulance code 30-40 miles to Babb and how it is essential to have an ambulance stationed out there. Commissioner Bremner explains how Babb EMS has had a horrific summer with no ambulance stationed out there. Commissioner Bremner also explains that they gave a timeline of 60 days for the lawyers to get everything squared away. Matthew Matusiak explains that the ambulances on the reservation are equipped and ready to go but they cannot do anything with an MOU. Ryan explains that Logan Health can step in until the MOU gets out into place and can provide EMS services at the level the community needs. Ryan also suggested that they can employ anyone in the Babb community to do on-call services. Ryan talks about a contract with Blackfeet Tribal EMS so that everyone in the area has the same doctor, some policies, and procedures in place when a medical emergency happens. Dr. Matusiak explains that the goal for Blackfeet Tribal Health and Logan Health is for the patients to get the help/care they need and deserve without being stretched thin. Commissioner Bremner is concerned that the insurance will go up when they have an ambulance present in the building, she does not want to cost Glacier County additional money. Steven Lock, Babb EMS; points out that in the wintertime they will only need one ambulance stationed in Babb. Ryan explains that the fastest option would be for the Babb EMS to become a substation under Logan Health until Blackfeet Tribal Health can get the MOU that they need to operate their ambulances. Ryan also explains that the biggest difficulty is getting the part for the ambulance and getting it out to Babb, they are looking at a two-week time frame. Commissioner Overcast asks would be best suited for the billing part of it? Dr. Matusiak explains that he would rather have Logan Health do the billing and get the revenue since it is their ambulance, that way they can offset the expenses. Ryan explains that with the low volume of calls per year in the Babb area, Logan Health will not make a profit off the ambulance service. Ryan also explains why he is trying to partner with Blackfeet Tribal Health so they can share the cost. Dr. Matusiak explains that partnership is important because he can get access to federal money on the Reservation that Logan Health cannot access. Curtis Harper knows the area and his main concern is that what if one of his family members calls for an emergency and an ambulance is 30-40 miles away from Babb. Commissioner Bremner agrees and wants to expedite the process. Pat Thronson expresses his concerns like all his medical supplies are expired. Pat explains that the last call he was on in Babb, IHS would not come out because of the road conditions, and he had to drive the patient to Browning himself. Further conversation continues about find the coverage and resources for the Babb EMS. The group discusses an ambulance that has been sitting out at the airport for a while and what exactly is wrong with it. Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO; explains that when a diagnostics test was done on it and the problem was the motor. Chancy states that with the age of the ambulance and the miles it had on it, they did not want to put money into it with the potential of something else going wrong with it once the initial problem was fixed. Commissioner Bremner is concerned with the financial side of things, so she was happy when the coordination between Logan

Health and Blackfeet EMS because it would not be fiscally responsible for Glacier County to replace a \$500,000.00 vehicle. Ryan Pitts is happy with all involved entities coming together to solve the issue a hand and hope the collaboration keeps its momentum. They had a lengthy conversation about the cost of the part for the ambulance and getting that ambulance out to Babb once it is fixed.

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the purchase of the part for the ambulance to go to Babb; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; motion is carried.

G. Addition to the Agenda: Removal of the Fire Restrictions for Glacier County – Curtis Harper, Acting Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator

Commissioner Overcast motions to remove stage 1 fire restrictions within Glacier County; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; motion is carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

H. Public Comment

Carol Larson, public; asks if there is any progress with I.H.S.? Commissioner Bremner says no, the wheels of government move slow. Carol also inquires about the Glacier County Care Center. Commissioner Bremner states she will talk about it in the next meeting.

I. Next Meeting – Thursday, February 3, 2022 – Cut Bank

Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn meeting at 10:38 a.m.; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; motion is carried.

CLOSED SESSION: Glacier County Attorney will meet with the Commissioners to discuss legal issues at Matt Law Office, 310 E. Main St, Cut Bank, MT 59427 after the public portion of the meeting ends. – Mary Jo Bremner, Commission Chair

****This closed session meeting was cancelled****