

**Glacier County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 2022**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Browning, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, Michael DesRosier, John Overcast were present.

**Present at the Meeting:** Marvin Weatherwax Jr; BTBC/HD 15; Dawn Gray; Blackfeet Tribal Attorney; Terry Matt; Glacier County Attorney; Cicily Calf Boss Ribs, Public; Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer; Jeri Johnson Elliott, Glacier County Executive Administrative Assistant; Eve The Boy, Glacier County Deputy C&R - Elections

**A. Roll Call**

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

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner DesRosier approved the agenda with one item being tabled for a later date; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**C. Discussion/Approval: (9:00 a.m.) Meeting w/ Blackfeet Tribal Council and Legal Dept regarding Election Directive #01-2015 – Glacier County Commissioners**

Cicily Calf Boss Rib's introduces herself. Commissioner Bremner is referring to a letter that Dawn Gray, Blackfeet Tribal Attorney had sent to the Glacier County Elections Office. Commissioner Bremner states that she responded to the letter since Glacier County Clerk & Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly hasn't responded, also states that Clerk & Recorder Kennerly was invited to attend this meeting and didn't show up. Commissioner Bremner says that they will move forward with the meeting anyway because they have tried to have several meetings, but they just couldn't make it happen. Commissioner Bremner thanks everyone for attending and asks them to introduce themselves; Marvin Weatherwax Jr is from the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council and also a State Representative for HD 15, Dawn Gray thanks the Commissioners for having this meeting, she is the Blackfeet Tribal Attorney. She states that she is sure that this is the first meeting between the Glacier County Commissioner's and the Blackfeet Tribe to discuss elections and the election process, having the meeting is important and helpful to the process coming up. Commissioner Bremner states that she is not exactly sure how elections work and she has questions about the mail in ballot process. Commissioner Bremner asks that since the last Election was an all-mail in ballot, do the elders have to request to remain on the absentee ballot list? She states that the laws change from day to day. Dawn states that the during the last election we had a lot of problems with voting and the ability to vote safely with COVID-19. She states that the tribe tried to help with drop boxes in several areas and it was a success. Dawn states that she thinks they were

good because of the people not having rides to the polling places and because people share mailboxes. She would like to have drop boxes available if possible. Dawn also states that Western Native Voice was a lot of help with putting out drop boxes and educating the public about voting and the voting process. Dawn is concerned about Glacier County Elections and the Satellite Office being a voting site. She is concerned about space, people standing out in the cold. She does not want the voters to encounter disenfranchisement from being able to vote. Dawn says that the tribe discussed how to Make the voting process a lot more real and how we can educate. Says voting time is very cultural. Dawn was looking at Directives from the Montana State Governor and she thought how can we achieve those goals together? They (Tribal Council) thought that the Stick Game Arbor would be a good place to hold the elections. She explained that the Stick Game Arbor has all the capacity and if it does not the tribe has the equipment to ensure that it will. Marvin Weatherwax states that we want to do whatever we can to ensure a safe place to vote and lessen the impact on our right to vote. He states that the tribe will do anything to provide a safe place to vote. Commissioner Bremner states the Glacier County will have their own building ready by then. She explains that it has 2 large rooms, one for voting and the other for people waiting to vote and ample parking. She states that the building is located across from the college, the old Harry Barnes Building. Commissioner DesRosier comments that Glacier County really lead the way last year in getting Indians access to vote. Glacier County had already stepped out in the front when it came to accommodating voters during covid. Commissioner DesRosier states that one of things was realizing Glacier County had a lot to do to comply with the tribe's request to provide for voting. He states that drop boxes really helped along with the "Get Out to Vote" groups. Commissioner DesRosier states that the laws really impact rural areas and Glacier County has, in the past, worked with local groups on how to improve elections. Commissioner DesRosier continues with ideas that he thinks would make it easier for people of Glacier County to get out and vote. He talks about hiring enough people and security for elections. Marvin Weatherwax asks about voting machines and how they work, how and when do they get tested? Commissioner DesRosier explains that the machines do get tested. Commissioner Bremner states that she agrees that having the elections at the Stick Game Arbor is a good idea but there needs to be further discussion with Glacier County Elections Officer and that she appreciates the offer. Commissioner Bremner states that all the logistics will have to be worked out if they decide to do it. Commissioner DesRosier comments that we need more trained personnel for elections. He states that Glacier County is the Flagship for elections, and he would like it to remain that way. Discussion about election laws follows. Terry Matt reminds everybody in attendance that the Elections Officer is Glacier County's Clerk & Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly. Discussion about the extended hours of the Satellite office during previous elections ensues. Eve The Boy; Glacier County Deputy C&R - Elections states that one of their concerns is security and hauling all the equipment needed for voting over to the Arbor. She states that the voting machines need to be stored in a secure area. Commissioner Bremner says that these are some of the logistics that need to be worked out. Commissioner Overcast states that it all depends on

what Glacier County Election's Officer says, we don't want to get our cart before our horse. Cicily Calf Boss Ribs asks if there is a reason as to why our Election official did not attend today's meeting. Commissioner Bremner states she does not know why but she sent Eve The Boy to help answer some of our questions. Cicily Calf Boss Ribs asks Eve The Boy how far Glacier County is in the elections process and planning regarding securing buildings, securing election workers. Eve The Boy says right now we have secured all our buildings and as far as election workers we are working on it. She states that we are in the process of getting supplies ordered. Cicily Calf Boss Ribs wants to know how soon the public will be notified in regard to asking for workers. Eve the Boy says she is not sure. Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer states that one thing he found out is that the pay is way better this year then it has been in the past and he thinks that is going to make a huge difference in recruiting election workers. Cicily Calf Boss Ribs asks how Glacier County Elections is recruiting workers and explains how they did it in the past. Long discussion about recruiting election workers follows. Terryl Matt states that she just researched online that there is no deadline to request a mail in ballot, you just have to have the ballot back by 8 p.m. on Election Day. She also states that it should be made clear to the public that you can come in 30 days prior to election day and vote at the Satellite Office in Browning or at the Courthouse in Cut Bank. Commissioner DesRosier states that having the Tribal and Federal Elections together would be a good collaboration in getting the people into the center to vote. Commissioner Bremner says that the Commissioners will keep in touch and that we have a lot to collaborate on and that the lines of communication need to stay open. A lengthy discussion follows about election security and who would be responsible for providing it. Terryl Matt suggests that the tribe and county work together and to make the process of voting clear to the public because many people are confused about the time and places that they can go to vote. Commissioner Bremner agrees that we need to completely communicate early and often. She states that the tribe and the County need to work together to keep our elections successful. Cicily Calf Boss Ribs has some questions, and a lengthy conversation follows about the State Election Rules and the State Election Calendar and the states have requirements that each County must follow. Also, about voter registration cards and how important having the right physical address is. Commissioner DesRosier states that we really need to keep lines of communication open because there are many other issues that the Tribe and County can certainly collaborate on and discuss that would benefit the overall community. He continues that there are many things the County Commissioner's would like to visit about and eventually come to an agreement on. Commissioner DesRosier says that he would certainly like to continue meeting with the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council. Commissioner Bremner thanks the tribe for attending this meeting and all their efforts. Cicily Calf Boss Ribs asks Eve The Boy that with the current Election Administrator's name going on the ballot, what is your office's plan of action to conduct an honest and transparent election for the primary? Eve The Boys states that she does not have all the answers but if Cicily or anybody else would like to write their questions down, she would find an answer. Terryl Matt states that having an Election's

Administrators' name on a ballot is quite common. She says that usually the Election's Administrator is the County Clerk & Recorder. She also states that by statute the Commissioners of each county can select an Election's Administrator and if they don't it goes to the Clerk & Recorder.

**D. Discussion/Approval: Address Browning Satellite Office Concerns (per letter from Commissioner Bremner) - Pat Schildt, Owner of Browning Satellite Office**

This item was tabled.

**Commissioner DesRosier motioned to table the item; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**E. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**F. Next Meeting: March 31, 2021 – Cut Bank**

Commissioner DesRosier motions to adjourn at 10:46 a.m.; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.