

**Glacier County Commissioners
Thursday, April 15, 2021
Regular Meeting (GOTOMTG)
Cut Bank, MT**

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 am Thursday, April 15, 2021. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, Michael DesRosier and John B. Overcast was present and Austin Parrent taking minutes.

Present at the Meeting: Carol Larson, Marlene Luedtke, Laurie Elhard, Public; Brenda Schilling, Glacier County Regional Port Authority, LeAnne Kavanagh, Press; Jim Yeagley, Glacier County Planner; Rudy Cicon, Land Surveyor

Present via GoToMtg: Cut Bank Airport Authority; Elaine; Gloria; Janine Scott; TM; Tom

A. Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of the Minutes: n/a

D. Review/Sign: Payroll/Claims

Dated for April 15, 2021

PAYROLL & CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

FUND	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
1000	General Fund	\$ 228,501.78
2110	Road Fund	\$ 24,315.20
2140	Weed Control	\$ 214.57
2180	County District Court	\$ 6,058.48
2220	Library	\$ 1,170.55
2230	Ambulance	\$ 1,860.41
2250	City/County Planning	\$ 1,000.00
2300	Public Safety (Law)	\$ 13,134.85
2360	Museum	\$ 257.10
2850	911 Emergency (Sheriff)	\$ 3,060.99
2979	Immunization Reimbursement	\$ 79.00
7302	West End Cemetery	\$ 244.83
	TOTAL CLAIMS	\$ 279,897.76
	PAYROLL	\$ 186,392.48
	TOTAL PAYROLL & CLAIMS	\$ 466,290.24

Commissioner Bremner had a question during the claim review portion of the meeting with regard to utility bills and their amounts. The first concern that was raised had to do with the water bill for the voting center in Cut Bank being \$111.83 per month when it is not currently in use. The second concern was for the West End Cemetery internet and phone bill being \$114.83 for the month of April, which is higher than the satellite office in Browning at \$74.95 per month. It was uncertain whether or not those higher speeds are needed for something specific, like death information that gets transmitted between West End Cemetery

and funeral homes. The commissioners are going to ask questions to see if both bill amounts are necessary and to see if costs can be reduced.

There was mention of the voting center flooding problem due to water runoff from the nearby hill. Commissioner Bremner stated they would look into a solution such as a creating a water diversion to keep the building from getting flooded in the future and that they would put a new rug in the facility.

Another flooding issue involved the Browning Library. Commissioner Bremner mentioned she attended a meeting with the Library board where they asked why Glacier County's Maintenance Department was not checking on the building while the library in Browning was closed. She told them that the maintenance department does not currently have a key. She would like to get the maintenance department a key so that they can check on the facility in the future.

Commissioner Bremner would like to make sure that an insurance agent looks at the building before any bid for cleaning and restoration is submitted. She would like to make sure that Glacier County's insurance will cover the costs before any work begins or any supplies or equipment is purchased.

The purchase for the satellite office building was finalized on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 when a check in the amount of \$203,846.78 was printed and brought to First American Title Company to close.

Commissioner Bremner expresses another concern she has with mail being opened and distributed to other parties outside of Glacier County. A letter came from the State of Montana which was addressed to Mary Jo Bremner that had a history of what is going on fiscally with Glacier County. She found the letter on her desk opened and date stamped for April 1, 2021. Title 18 Section 1708 from the Code of Laws of the United States of America was mentioned which has to do with the "theft or receipt of stolen mail matter generally".

Commissioner Bremner was concerned about the letter being in the newspaper verbatim yesterday even though she did not release the information contained within the letter to the public. When Commissioner Bremner spoke with the Department of Administration, they told her that the letter was sent to LeAnne Kavanagh, Press, after she requested it. Commissioner Bremner then states that she only shared the letter with the county attorney and chief financial officer of Glacier County. She questioned how the paper was able to ask and request a copy of the letter when it should have not had any knowledge that Commissioner Bremner had received it.

LeAnne Kavanagh states that the letter was emailed to her by the State of Montana after she had asked for information on Glacier County's current financial state. She continues to say that she did not receive the letter from Glacier County.

Commissioner Overcast felt as though Commissioner Bremner was implying that he or Clerk & Recorder Mandi Kennerly came into the office and supplied information about the opened letter to the press.

Everyone started speaking at once, one voice overlapping another as the room broke into a heated debate. Commissioner Bremner slammed her gavel down sending a shockwave through the courthouse. The room fell silent as onlookers turned their gaze towards the chairwoman, a palpable sense of disbelief still lingering in the air.

Commissioner Bremner states that she is not trying to offend Commissioner Overcast and that she is explaining her position on the letter, where it came from, and her conversation with the Department of Administration about it. That is all she will say on the matter and will leave any additional comments that the public has for the public comments section of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

E. Discussion/Approval: Public Hearing #2 Resolution No. 2021-02 Big Sky Trust Fund – FY 2020-2021 Budget Amendment – Glacier County Commissioners

Commissioner DesRosier motions to approve Resolution No. 2021-02 Big Sky Trust Fund – FY2020-2021 Budget Amendment; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

**GLACIER COUNTY RESOLUTION
FY 2020-2021 APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT – 1000 GENERAL FUND
BIG SKY TRUST FUND GRANT
Resolution No. 2021-02**

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS BUDGETED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021, AND REVISING EXPENDITURE APPROPRIATIONS.

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners is authorized by Section 7-6-4006, M.C.A. to amend its annual budget and to make transfers and supplemental appropriations of budget funds; and

WHEREAS, the County provided notice of a public hearing concerning this Resolution in accordance with Section 7-6-4021, M.C.A., and held such public hearing as required by state statute; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to amend its FY2020-2021 budget and approves an increase to budgeted appropriations to the General Fund #1000 in the amount of \$120,000 as set forth in this Resolution in order to fund a needed unanticipated expenditure from the General Fund, Economic Development Account. 1000 – 470300 -730.

WHEREAS, revenue to finance the unanticipated expenditures will be funded through Big Sky Trust Fund Grant (Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund) revenues of \$120,000.

WHEREAS, as a result, it is necessary to amend the original budget appropriations for the current year;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Glacier County Board of Commissioners hereby amend the original FY20-210 budget by increasing appropriations in the amount of \$120,000, and directs the County Clerk & Recorder to allocate the increase to the following fund, function, and object code: 1000 – 470300 – 730.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above appropriation shall become effective on April 15, 2021.

ADOPTED this 15th day of April, 2021.

ATTEST:

GLACIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

/s/ Mandi Bird Kennerly, Clerk & Recorder

/s/ Mary Jo Bremner, Chair

/s/ Michael J. DesRosier, Vice-Chair

/s/ John B. Overcast, Member

F. Discussion/Approval: Subdivision Black Family/St. Mary's – Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Chair

Jim Yeagley, Glacier County Planner, states that the Black Family is splitting their property up amongst their family members. Since Montana's definition of immediate family is so narrow, they are forced to do this as a subdivision rather than what would normally happen as a family member. Montana's definition of immediate family is only spouses and parents (by blood and adoption) and does not include brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. As a consequence, the family is forced to do this as a subdivision. It comes under the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act which requires approval by the county commissioners.

Rudy Cicon, Land Surveyor with Cicon & Associates, is the surveyor for the subdivision and has brought the plats for the chairperson to sign. Both the HBFL Minor Subdivision and the Black Family Subdivision were both signed by Commissioner Bremner on April 15, 2021.

Both the HBFL Minor Subdivision and the Black Family Subdivision were previously approved through a motion in the commissioner meeting held on November 25, 2020.

G. Discussion: Rod Bullshoe Honoring: Road Scholar Level 1 – Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County Chair

This item was tabled to the next commissioner meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021 to allow time for his gifts to come in the mail so that they can be awarded to Rod Bullshoe for his achievement.

OTHER BUSINESS:

H. Public Comment

LeAnne Kavanagh, Press, makes a statement:

“On March 19, 2021 I emailed the State of Montana’s communication director, asking for information on the county’s financial progress. I said I’m guessing D.O.A. (Department of Administration) is receiving some type of reporting or is corresponding with county officials on the financial situation. If you can track down any report or recent correspondence between the state and county on our financial situation, it would be helpful. Thank you for your time and effort. That was sent at 8:26 a.m. on March 19. On March 22, Amber Conger responded that she would look into it. On April 5, she sent me an email that said this is the latest information. And that was the document, the status update on Glacier County’s financial situation. I personally am offended that you would think that I would come into this office and take something off of your desk. Mr. DesRosier implied that these doors are open, they are not always open, they are locked. You would have to come through that door [the Clerk & Recorder’s office] to get into this office.”

There was some back and forth on who actually said the doors were open.

LeAnne continues,

“Regardless, it was said in this meeting that people could come in and take things off [of your desk]. ...The fact that you think one of your co-elected officials would do the same thing too, is disturbing, that you don’t have that trust amongst yourselves to lead this county together. That’s my public comment.”

Commissioner DesRosier states,

“You’re assuming somebody’s thinking something? That’s pretty offensive. Mary Jo just stated the fact that her letter was open and it was published in the paper word for word.”

LeAnne says,

“And she quoted mail fraud law.”

Commissioner DesRosier says,

“She didn’t imply anything. She didn’t point the finger or accuse anybody in any way.”

There were a few more brief words back and forth that were a continuation of the above conversation that were similar to what was already stated. Commissioner Bremner thanked LeAnne for the additional information.

LeAnne also mentions that there has not been a cash report since October of 2020 and that the State of Montana is 17 months behind and nobody has answered her question as to why. As soon as someone answers she will stop asking.

Commissioner Overcast mentions he would like to start seeing a cash report around the 20th of each month and would like it signed, notarized, and presented to the commissioners each month. Commissioner Bremner stated she would ask to have this done moving forward.

Brenda Schilling, Port Authority Executive Director, had some concerns about the length of the grant going beyond the end of the county fiscal year. Commissioner Bremner states that it will just be added into the new fiscal year when the new budget is created.

Laurie Elhard made a public comment asking if the treasurer has any staff that can fill in for him when he is gone. Commissioner Bremner states she will ask and states he has an executive secretary. Commissioner Overcast states there is no deputy in the treasurer's office here in Cut Bank, however, there is one at the Browning Satellite Office.

Carol Larson asked about what the decision was for the renewal of the contracts for the consultants that occurred during the last meeting in Browning. They were renewed at 35.00/hr for Magda Nelson and \$65.00/hr for Rita Neuman.

There was a brief discussion on the new satellite office in Browning that was recently purchased. The check was cut on Tuesday, March 13, 2021 in the amount of \$203,846.78 and taken to First American Title Company to finalize the purchase of the building. A private state line has to be put into the building before Glacier County can move into the building. A report on the progress of the move will be made soon. The old satellite office at 12 Starr School Road will remain in operation until the new building is ready to be moved into.

I. Next Meeting – Monday, April 19, 2021 – Cut Bank

Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner DesRosier seconds the motion; meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.