

Glacier County Commissioners
Tuesday, August 9, 2022
Regular Meeting
Browning, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 9, 2022. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, Michael J. DesRosier and John B. Overcast were present.

Present at the Meeting: Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director; Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer; Shannon Pepion, Glacier County Maintenance Supervisor; Tom Rodgers, Carlyle Consulting

A. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Bremner would like to add Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director to the agenda to update information on Glacier County Disaster & Emergency Services.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to add the changes to the agenda and accept with the change; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

C. Discussion/Approval: Appoint West End Cemetery Board Member – Glacier County Commissioners

Commissioner Bremner states that she received a letter of interest from Chuck Pilling to serve on the West End Cemetery Board. She talked with Jackie Conway, West End Cemetery board member and she is in support.

Commissioner DesRosier motions to approve Chuck Pilling to the West End Cemetery board; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

D. Discussion/Approval: Boiler Report & Trash Bin - Shannon Pepion, Glacier County Maintenance Supervisor

Commissioner Bremner wants reports on boilers and trash bin for the new Satellite Office in Browning. She wants to make sure we are being proactive and ready before the cold hits. Shannon Pepion said he order a new, bigger pump that will be installed soon. Right now, his crew has been busy working on summer stuff. He also states that he has been doing research on new boilers for the County Courthouse. The state inspection of the boiler system at the courthouse said that the boilers needed to be completely replaced. Shannon said that he estimates 3 new commercial size boilers to cost between \$90,000 - \$100,000. Glacier County C.F.O.; Chancy Kittson put out bids and 2 bids were received. Commissioner Bremner states that we need to keep one step ahead of all the unexpected disasters. She also states that she wants to make the new Satellite Building a priority. Which brings us to trash bins. Commissioner Bremner said that Doug went and picked up trash and put it in big piles in the

back of the building because he had nowhere else to put it. He needs a place to put trash. Commissioner Bremner asks if Shannon will get a temporary trash bin put at the building. A trash bin will be needed when other contractors start working on the building and getting on the list might take some time. Commissioner DesRosier states that right now would be good time to get started on the dirt work outside in the parking lot. Right now, would be ideal so that the equipment won't be in the way of other contractors when they start working on the inside of the building. Shannon Pepion says that he understands that they are anxious to get moved into the building but starting small and getting the floors fixed first so that they can get offices moved over and then moving on to the bigger things Like the parking lot would be better. Commissioner Bremner asks Shannon to get a bid on the cement work and cement the entry way because the bricks that are there now are a hazard. Commissioner DesRosier suggested that may be Glacier County Roads Department Supervisor: John Evans can move dirt and cut the steep incline in the parking lot out and start smoothing out gravel. Commissioner Bremner says it has been a year and a half, we need to get the little things done so we can move in there. Discussion Only.

E. Discussion: I.H.S. Consultant Report – Glacier County Commissioners

Tom Rodgers, Carlyle Consulting is and enroll member of the Blackfeet Tribe. He lived in Alexander, VA and had been working in Washington, D.C. for almost 35 years. He was a clerk for a federal Judge at the U.S. Tax Court, served on the Tax Council for Senator Max Baucus, he has been a consultant for many tribes across the country, he has work on issues concerning the Opioid litigation, voting rights for Native American tribes. He states that the rights that were started right here in Glacier County were adopted by the U.S. Attorney General under President Obama's term. He travels on his own dime and will never charge. He is concerned with the I.H.S. status and the status is no payment. Tom Rodgers states that the I.H.S. is using our checkbook and our cash flow to underwrite their situation. He stated that he has worked against the previously nominated Liz Fowler because she wasn't aggressive enough. Ms. Fowler withdrew her nomination, and we now have a new nominee from the Navajo Tribe. Tom Rodgers said our people need to have faith and that I.H.S. is bordering on violence. He said he talked to Tester's Legislative Assistant yesterday and she announced that the Reconciliation Bill passed yesterday. He said he asked Mike and John to travel to Washington D.C. with him, he doesn't work alone. He said he hits from 3 ways, media, legislation and litigation. He states that the I.H.S. is using our resources and cash flow to subsidize their model and its morally and unethically unfair. Commission Bremner states that litigation costs money and that's where they have us over the barrel, it's sad that we as a small county has to come to this. Commissioner DesRosier states that we hope to get our issues resolved, not only ours, but for Indian Country around the country. He states that we have all suffered from I.H.S.'s bureaucracy, they have been abusing their privileges that they have as an overseer for many, many years. Commissioner Bremner states that Glacier County hired a consultant that said we would have to swallow what I.H.S. owes us. Sometimes we have to go above their head, and you (Tom) do that for us. We don't have the ability to do that, and you do. Commissioner Bremner states that we try our best for our constituents and I.H.S. should do that for us. Tom Rodgers says that they are morally and ethically wrong. Persevere, persevere, persevere...we will prevail. He says that the current I.H.S. system is broken, something needs to replace it, in the meantime we need reform. Commissioner Bremner says that they prey upon the poorest people they can. She says we're

not begging for something, we are just asking for something that is ours. Tom Rodgers states that healthcare is a basic human right. Glacier Park is bittersweet. Commissioner Bremner thanked Tom Rodgers for coming and giving his latest report. She states we will continue to fight our way up. Discussion Only.

Addition to the Agenda: Glacier County Disaster & Emergency Information, Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resources

Commissioner Bremner said she talked with Glacier County D.E.S. Supervisor; Lanaina Upham last week about fire danger and fire restrictions in Glacier County. Glacier County is still in fire Restriction Stage 1. Lanaina will talk with the Blackfoot Tribe about retesting soil. Michael K. gives some history about fire restriction for the last year. November 21, 2021 was the last report he had from Curtis Harper. Michael Kittson will talk with Lanaina and Curtis again about fire restriction and see if they have the restrictions posted in the appropriate areas. Human Resources Director; Michael Kittson announced that he received official notification from Glacier County D.E.S. Coordinator; Lanaina Upham and her last day working will be August 28, 2022. Michael Kittson did speak with Glacier County D.E.S. Deputy Coordinator Curtis Harper about possibly stepping in as Acting Coordinator Curtis Harper has no interest but will help train any incoming Coordinator. Michael Kittson said he has prepared a job opening advertisement for the position and the advertisement will begin tomorrow August 10, 2022 and run for 2 weeks. He proposed a starting wage, depending on experience, education and abilities at \$22 - \$30/hr. The hourly wage would top out at \$32/hr depending on experience. The wage will be negotiable after probationary period. Michael Kittson said he will set up an interview board and he invited the Commissioner's to take a look at the potential questions that would be asked at the interview. He will set up a meeting with Lanaina and Curtis to go over what a D.E.S. Coordinator should know and what they should look like, as in their overall curriculum and what they should be able to produce. Commissioner Bremner said that the applicant should have knowledge in grant writing. Commissioner Bremner also states that she appreciates Lanaina and all the work she has done for Glacier County. She also wants to thank all the other departments that go under the radar without ever being thanked. Michael Kittson wants to thank Lanaina. He said she has done an outstanding job for Glacier County D.E.S. Program. He states that she is one of the best D.E.S. Coordinator's and friend and he will be sad when she leaves. Commissioner Overcast said he spoke with Lanaina and she said she is just a phone call away and that she is also willing to come in and do introductions when a new Coordinator is hired. Discussion Only.

OTHER BUSINESS:

F. Public Comment

Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer is present as he needs new signature cards from the Commissioner's for the bank.

G. Next Meeting – Monday, August 15, 2022 – Cut Bank

Commissioner DesRosier motions to adjourn at 10:19 a.m.; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.