

Glacier County Commissioners
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
Regular Meeting
Cut Bank, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner and John B. Overcast were present. Commissioner Michael J. DesRosier was absent. Austin Parrent taking minutes.

Present at the meeting: Beau Michael, Public; Ann Lunak, Public; Suzy Wright Michael, Public; Laurie Elhard & Carol Larson, Public; Kristi Rowell & Darcy Molenda, Glacier Care Center; John “Snoop” Evans, Glacier County Road Department Supervisor; Bruce “Butch” Gillespie, Montana Senator

Present via GoToMeeting: (1) Caller; Brenda Schilling; Elaine Mitchell; Gloria; Linda Luther; xxx

A. Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the agenda with changes; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; motion carried.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

Discussion: Road Department Sand - John “Snoop” Evans, Glacier County Road Department Supervisor

John “Snoop” Evans, Glacier County Road Department Supervisor, informs the commissioners that he is going to purchase four semi loads of sand from Glacier County Human Resources Director Mike Kittson for the Road Department. He states that both Glacier County and the City of Cut Bank typically buy sand from him and that he is planning on making the purchase on Thursday, December 8, 2022. He estimates the four semi loads will cost between \$700 to \$800.

NEW BUSINESS:

C. Discussion: Cascadia Care Center Provider – Glacier County Commissioners

Commissioner Bremner talks about Lantis terminating their lease agreement with Glacier County, returning the building and care of the residents within Glacier Care Center back over to Glacier County. There is a discussion between the Glacier County Commissioners and Glacier Care Center Administrators about the need for the Glacier Care Center facility within Glacier County to remain operational to serve the surrounding community. In addition, there is discussion on low Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements hurting facilities throughout the state of Montana by not allowing them to make enough to cover their costs. The discussion between Glacier County Commissioners, Glacier Care Center Administrators, and the public continues as they try to come up with solutions for keeping the Glacier Care Center open.

Cascadia Healthcare, based out of Idaho, is mentioned several times as an interested party in potentially managing the Glacier Care Center.

Public Comment

Bruce “Butch” Gillespie, State of Montana Senator, asks for additional information on Cascadia Healthcare.

Suzy Michael, Public, asks about the length of the contract agreement that Lantis was under. She also asks about the specific laws that are in question which would need to be changed to help finance rural nursing care.

Beau Michael, Public, asks if an extension can be given to keeping Glacier Care Center staff employed and operating the facility in case the transition between care providers does not go smoothly. Both Beau & Suzy Michael ask if Glacier County has funding to cover the costs to keep the facility operational during the transition period.

Human Resources Director Mike Kittson recommends to the commissioners that they hold off on making an official comment until a contract with another care provider has been finalized.

Suzy Michael, Public, asks the commissioners if they have a small team of individuals who are advising them on all the details regarding the Glacier Care Center and operating a nursing home.

Suzy Michael, Public, makes a public comment that whether the Glacier Care Center is leased to another contractor or not, it is part of the county and belongs to the county and should be taken care of.

Laurie Elhard, Public, asks the commissioners if it got to the point of moving patients, what the chances of those patients moving back here was after everything has been settled.

Ann Lunak, Public, asks Senator Bruce Gillespie for dates and times when legislation is going to become involved regarding the issue of funding for rural nursing healthcare.

Beau Michael, Public, comments that he believes whichever company takes over the contract should be required to do an assessment with the county at some point within the time period of the new contract. He also asks if it would be in the best interest of the county to staff its own nursing facility with its own people.

Suzy Michael, Public, asks what the 5-year and 10-year goals of the county are regarding the Glacier Care Center nursing facility.

Beau Michael, Public, comments on travelling nurses vs. locally staffing the nursing facility.

Carol Larson, Public, comments on the condition of the roof and the current state of the Glacier Care Center nursing facility building.

Suzy Michael, Public, asks if the equipment and furniture within the building belongs to Glacier County.

Beau Michael, Suzy Michael, & Carol Larson, Public, asks Senator Gillespie questions regarding when the State Legislature meets and which state representatives to talk to about advocating for funding for rural healthcare and nursing home facilities.

Suzy Michael, Public, makes a public comment about carefully examining the terms of future contracts for the Glacier Care Center. There is also discussion on revenue and expenses of the Glacier Care Center.

Laurie Elhard, Public, makes a public comment on the upkeep of the building.

Ann Lunak, Public, makes a public comment about having an emergency contingency plan.

D. Discussion/Approval: Browning Satellite Office Bids – Chancy Kittson, Glacier County C.F.O./Glacier County Commissioners

Commissioner Bremner, Commissioner Overcast, and Shannon Pepion, Maintenance Department Supervisor, discuss the satellite office bids that were received for construction work that needs to be done on the new Browning Satellite Office building. Contractors who submitted bids were asked to provide a cost breakdown and resubmit their bids. Two contracts were created from the received bids for the flooring and framing finish of the building. Both contracts are presented to the commissioners for their approval. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that Glacier County has already received will be used to pay for the project.

Flooring Contract – Edward Kennedy & Associates – \$19,564.75

Framing Finish Contract – Edward Kennedy & Associates – \$69,923.43

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the Edward Kenney & Associates – Flooring Contract for \$19,564.75 and the Edward Kennedy & Associates – Framing Finish Contract for \$69,923.43 to be paid from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund 2991, Account 411240, Object 300; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; motion carried.

Public Comment

Laurie Elhard, Public, questions the amount of the contracts and asks to review them.

Carol Larson, Public, asks how much ARPA funding is available for contract work on the new Glacier County Satellite Office.

OTHER BUSINESS:

E. Public Comment

Laurie Elhard, Public, makes a public comment on how initially they were told the new Browning Satellite Office Building would be move in ready. She also asked for an appraisal

and an inspection report around that time. She also states that the additional expenses that are going into the building now were not agreed upon when the building was initially being purchased.

Carol Larson, Public, asks what other work needs to be done on the new Browning Satellite Office Building.

F. Next Meeting – Thursday, December 8, 2022 – Cut Bank

Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.