

Glacier County Commissioners
Tuesday, August 8, 2023
Regular Meeting
Browning, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner & Vernon “Napi” Billedeaux and John B. Overcast were present.

Present at the Meeting: John “Snoop” Evans, Glacier County Road Supervisor; Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer; Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO; Maurice Redhorn, Glacier County Sheriff; Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resources Director; Tom Seifert, Glacier County Undersheriff; Judd Milender, Glacier County Office of Emergency Management Director

A. Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to approve the agenda with no changes; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

C. Discussion/Approval: Construction Contract – GC Satellite Office – Commissioner Chambers – Bird Construction – Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO/Glacier County Commissioners

Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO presents two (2) construction contract bids to start and finish the Browning Satellite Commissioner Chambers: Bird Construction \$17,866.00 and Tim McDonald Construction \$21,225.00.

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to approve the construction contract between Glacier County and Bird Construction in the amount of \$17,866.00; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

D. Discussion/Approval: Correct Past Accounting Error between Cut Bank Schools & Glacier County – Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer/Glacier County Commissioners

Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer he has not heard from the Glacier County Attorney and would like to see that this item is tabled until there is a response from the Glacier County Attorney. The commissioners table this item until this can be addressed.

E. Discussion/Approval: Appoint new Glacier County Tax Appeal Board Members (Linsey Milender, Zita Bremner & Jess Kays – Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer
Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer states that he would like the commissioners to approve and appoint Linsey Milender, Zita Bremner & Jess Kays to the Glacier County Tax Appeal Board and remove the three current members JoAn Printy, Lila Evans and Darryl Omsberg.

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to appoint Linsey Milender, Zita Bremner and Jess Kays as the new Glacier County Tax Appeal Board Members on the recommendation from Treasurer Wilson; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

F. Discussion/Approval: Glacier County Website Contract – Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director

Micheal Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director presents a web site contract from Short Grass Web Development with the term of the contract it shall be for one (1) year. The total contract amount is \$9,980.00 with a down payment of \$4,990.00. He did reach out to another company, but short grass was the best option.

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to approve the Glacier County Website Contract with Shortgrass Web Development in the amount of \$9,980.00; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

G. Discussion/Approval: Glacier County Sheriff Policy – Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director, Maurice Redhorn, Glacier County Sheriff & Tom Seifert, Glacier County Undersheriff

Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director states that the Glacier County Sheriff's Office will be updating their Sheriff's Policy. Tom Seifert, Glacier County Undersheriff explains that Montana Association of Counties created a program to help counties update their policies and help with the cost of the update. There was a general discussion on this process. No decisions were made.

H. Discussion/Approval: Replace Fuel Cache System \$15,761.68 (Glacier County Road Dept) – Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO/John “Snoop” Evans, Glacier County Road Supervisor

John “Snoop” Evans, Glacier County Road Supervisor would like to request an approval to purchase a new Fuel Master System in the amount of \$15,761.68. The current fuel system is aged and no longer in working order. The road department needs to track every fuel card so that they can bill out each month to county departments.

Commissioner Overcast motions to approve the purchase of the new Fuel Master System through NWestCo in the amount of \$15,761.68; Commissioner Billedeaux seconds the motion; motion carried.

I. Discussion/Approval: Resolution No. 2023-10 Stage II Fire Restrictions – Judd Milender, Glacier County Disaster & Emergency Services

Judd Milender, Glacier County Office of Emergency Management Director is present to get approval for Resolution No. 2023-10 Stage II Fire Restrictions.

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to approve Resolution No. 2023-10 Stage II Fire Restrictions for Glacier County; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

GLACIER COUNTY RESOLUTION
GLACIER COUNTY STAGE II FIRE RESTRICTIONS
Resolution No. 2023-10

WHEREAS, continued high temperatures and low precipitation have occurred within Glacier County during the months of June, July, and August 2023, resulting in dry fuel conditions and poor soil moisture conditions, which have contributed to a high wildland fire danger; and

WHEREAS the Glacier County Board of Commissioners declares that all the private land not under the jurisdiction of the municipalities, state or federal agencies is a high fire hazard area.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Glacier County Board of Commissioners that a county Stage II Fire Restriction is in effect for all lands in Glacier County due to high wildland fire danger. The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Open burning; and
2. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire. This includes charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood burning stoves and also prohibits use in developed camping and picnic areas. Exceptions allow for use of grilling devices if used on a deck or cement area greater than 6ft by 6ft; and
3. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, or inside a building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.; and
4. Fireworks to include all exploding targets (available for sale to recreational shooters); and
5. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame; and
6. Operating or using any internal combustion engine e.g. chainsaw, generator, ATV without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order; and
7. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off established roads, motorized trails or established parking areas.

EXEMPTIONS

1. Exemptions will be made for the following industries and workers but must maintain proper fire extinguisher apparatus or water truck capabilities: Agriculture, Energy and any Emergency personnel.
2. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding materials within three feet of the device.
3. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice by the controlling authority.
4. All land within an incorporated city or town is exempted.

VIOLATIONS

1. You could be fined up to \$5,000 individually or \$10,000 for an organization and imprisoned up to 6 months for violating restrictions and closures;
2. That a person can be held liable for all suppression costs and damages if they start a fire *and* may be prosecuted under the laws of the State.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED

1. That the Glacier County Office of Emergency Management shall be the lead agency in determining the need for the continuance of this restriction and shall notify the Glacier County Board of Commissioners, upon consult with local, state, tribal and federal fire partners, on the need for the cessation of Stage II Fire Restrictions in Glacier County.
2. That all activities that might potentially cause a fire shall cease immediately and be prohibited until further notice.
3. That an exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution becomes effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it may be amended or rescinded by the Glacier County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this 8th day of August, 2023 as moved by Commissioner Billedeaux, seconded by Commissioner Overcast, and passed by a 3/0 vote of the Board. Effective on passage and approval.

ATTEST:

/s/ Mandi Bird Kennerly, Clerk & Recorder

BOARD OF GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

/s/ Mary Jo Bremner, Chair

/s/ Vernon Billedeaux, Vice-Chair

/s/ John B. Overcast, Member

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

K. Next Meeting – Thursday, August 17, 2023 – Cut Bank

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