

Glacier County Commissioners
Monday, December 18, 2023
Regular Meeting
Cut Bank, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, Vernon “Napi” Billedeaux, & John B. Overcast were present. Mandi Bird Kennerly taking minutes.

Present at the meeting: Rick Geiger, Cut Bank Airport Authority; Ron Hermanet, Cut Bank Airport Operator; Patricia Compton, Brint Compton, Carol Larson, Laurie Elhard, Elaine Mitchell and Vernon Thomas, Public; Lisa Cline, Cut Bank Trails; Taila Edwards, Glacier County Port Authority Executive Director; Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO; Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer; Lester Johnson III, Glacier County Superintendent of Schools; Tom Seifert, Glacier County Undersheriff; Maurice Redhorn, Glacier County Sheriff

Present via GoToMeeting: Chancy; GCSO; Linda Burley; Robie Culver – Stahly Engineering; Tanner Pankratz; kim; kimmet

A. Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

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

NEW BUSINESS:

C. Discussion/Approval: Cut Bank Airport Funding Report – Rick Geiger, Cut Bank Airport Authority County Representative

Rick Geiger, Cut Bank Airport Authority gives a handout to the commissioners to help go over the funding for the Cut Bank Airport. He states that the airport may have enough money to get them through the end of the year. He explains that the airport is very concerned that they may not have enough money after the first of the year. There is a discussion on the mills that Glacier County provides and that the Cut Bank Airport Authority has visited with Terry Matt, Glacier County Attorney but the determination was that the county couldn’t allocate more than what the original agreement stated. Mr. Geiger would like to get a working session started between Glacier County, City of Cut Bank and the Cut Bank Airport Authority to brainstorm some options. Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO states that he did some research, and the airport will have enough to finish the fiscal year with the director taking a cut in hours. There is further discussion on grants, amending the previous resolution and arranging a meeting with both attorneys from the City of Cut Bank & Glacier County. It is decided that Commissioner Overcast will go to the meeting and have the attorneys research this to the full extent.

Public Comment

Carol Larson, Public commented.

Commissioner Overcast commented.
Commissioner Billedeaux commented.

D. Approval: Governmental Lease Purchase/Motorola/ (20) APX 8000 All Band Portable Radios, (17) APX 8500 All Band Mobile Radios and (2) APX Consolettes (Total Purchase Price \$496,746.81) – Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO/Glacier County Commissioners

Tom Seifert, Glacier County Undersheriff presents the commissioners with a Government Lease Purchase from Motorola for (20) APX 8000 All Band Portable Radios, (17) APX 8500 All Band Mobile Radios and (2) APX Consolettes (Total Purchase Price \$496,746.81). He explains that the Sheriff's office has been having issues with their current radios and ultimately the current radios are dated and will need to be replaced. There was an incident where a radio didn't work properly, but they were lucky that nobody was affected. The commissioners agree that due to the safety of the community and staff this is a need right away in the county to avoid a catastrophic event. Chancy Kittson, Glacier County CFO states that he can budget two years through the ARPA funding and that a grant coming out could cover the rest of the cost. Ultimately, there will be a plan in place to cover the cost of this purchase.

Public Comment

Laurie Elhard, Public commented.
Lisa Cline, Public commented.

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to approve the Governmental Lease Purchase with Motorola in the amount of \$496,746.81; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

E. Discussion/Approval (10:00 a.m.): Glacier County Browning Satellite Office Final Preliminary Plans (site improvements) – Glacier County Commissioner/Robie Culver, Stahly Engineering Grant Specialist

Robie Culver & Tanner Pankratz, Stahly Engineering present the commissioners with the Browning Satellite Office Final Preliminary Plans. They go through the plans with the commissioners so that they can plan for construction and start moving forward on the upgrades to the location. No decision is made.

Public Comment

Lester Johnson III, Glacier County Superintendent of Schools commented.
Carol Larson, Public commented.

F. Discussion/Approval – Nyhagen Bike Path Construction Materials – Glacier County Commissioners/Cut Bank Trails, Inc.

Lisa Cline, Cut Bank Trails Chair is present to get the approval from the commissioners on the Nyhagen Bike Path. A decision on material costs will need to be made on whether the path will use asphalt or concrete. She states that to use concrete it will cost an additional \$37,000.00. Commissioner Billedeaux asks about the pros and cons of concrete vs asphalt.

Mrs. Cline will contact Dave Holien, Montana Department of Transportation Engineer who is the point of contact on this question and get back to the commissioners.

Public Comment

Carol Larson, Public commented.

G. Discussion/Approval: The Hi-Line Company by Tegridy Farms Request for License Renewal – Patricia Compton, The Hi-Line Company by Tegridy Farms Owner/Glacier County Commissioners (tabled on 12/5/2023)

Patricia Compton and Brint Compton, Public are present for this item. Ms. Compton states that The Hi-Line Company by Tegridy Farms is renting property from her at 317 E. Railroad St. and they will need the letter signed by the commissioners that will allow The Hi-Line by Tegridy Farms to operate a dispensary in Glacier County. Commissioner Billedeaux states that he talked with Glacier County Attorney Terryl Matt and that it's ok for the commissioners to approve. The commissioners decided to approve the letter.

Public Comment

Vernon Thomas, Public commented.

Commissioner Billedeaux commented.

Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer commented.

Becky Kimmet, Public commented.

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to approve the letter from The Hi-Line Company by Tegridy Farms to operate in Glacier County; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

H. Public Comment

Lester Johnson III, Glacier County Superintendent of Schools commented.

Don Wilson, Glacier County Treasurer commented.

I. Next Meeting – Thursday, December 21, 2023 – Cut Bank

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m.; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.