

Glacier County Commissioners
Tuesday, August 13, 2024
Regular Meeting
Browning, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Commissioners Mary Jo Bremner, Vernon “Napi” Billedeaux and John B. Overcast were present. Mandi Bird Kennerly taking minutes.

Present at the Meeting: Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resources Director; Austin Castle, Glacier County Library Director; Maurice Redhorn, Glacier County Sheriff; Becky Kimmet, Glacier County Library Board; Colin Weber & Marti Rutherford, Browning VFD; Tom Seifert, Glacier County Undersheriff; Judd Milender, Glacier County Office of Emergency Management Director

Present via GoToMeeting: (1) Caller; Chancy; Claire; Gail; Linda; Sarah Converse; [Waiting for name]; Clint

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 the change of tabling item F.;
Commissioner Billedeaux seconds the motion; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

C. Discussion/Approval: Browning Library Update – Glacier County Commissioners/Stahly Engineering/Sweetgrass Development

Austin Castle, Glacier County Library Director is present to give an update to the commissioners about the progress on the Browning Library. We’ve received the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Report from Montana Department of Environmental Quality which confirms the asbestos inside the building and on the soffit on the outside of the building along with lead paint that will all need to be removed. We met with Stahly Engineering, and we need the commissioners to agree that we can work with Stahly before going forward. Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development Executive Director states that there will be one million dollars available for Brownsfield funding in which this project would qualify. It would require a 10% match from Glacier County. The first step is to get cost estimates for the project. Commissioner Bremner asks Clint of Stahly Engineering if they can get the estimates to Sarah. Clint of Stahly Engineering states that he will put the scope of work together and send a task order for review/approval around the end of the month for review.

Public Comment

Becky Kimmet, Glacier County Library Board commented.

D. Discussion/Approval: Resolution No. 2024-10 Elected Officials Compensation and County Employee Cost of Living Adjustment – Glacier County Commissioners/Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resources Director

Michael Kittson, Glacier County Human Resource Director presents Resolution No. 2024-10 Elected Officials Compensation and County Employee Cost of Living Adjustment for approval. He states that the Glacier County Compensation Board met last week and their recommendation to the commissioners is to move the base salary for elected officials to \$62,600 with add-on’s included and

a 7% COLA increase for the Glacier County Employee's. Commissioner Bremner asks for a motion to approve, but public comment first.

Public Comment

Becky Kimmet, Glacier County Library Board commented.

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to approve Resolution No. 2024-10 FY2024-2025 Elected Official Compensation and County Employee Cost of Living Adjustment; Commissioner Overcast seconds the motion; motion carried.

**GLACIER COUNTY RESOLUTION
FY2024-2025 ELECTED OFFICIAL COMPENSATION AND COUNTY EMPLOYEE
COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10**

WHEREAS, Montana Code Annotated(2021)(MCA)§ 7-4-2503, provides that a compensation schedule for the Glacier County Elected Officials must be established based upon a recommendation submitted by the County Compensation Board; and,

WHEREAS, the Glacier County Compensation Board, comprised and appointed in accordance with MCA §7-4-2503(4)(a), has, pursuant to MCA§7-4-2503(4)(b), conducted public hearings and considered economic variations and factors; and County Compensation Board, by majority vote as required in MCA§7-4-2503(4)(c), has established a recommendation for a salary schedule for the County Elected Officials; and

WHEREAS, MCA § 7-4-2503(1)(b) provides that the salary paid to the County's elected officials must be uniform; and

WHEREAS, MCA § 7-4-2504 provides that the Board of Glacier County Commissioners shall, by resolution by the date established in MCA§ 7-6-4036 (l)(a) each year, set the salaries of elected County Officials; and

WHEREAS, The County Compensation Board has established a uniform base salary, for the elected Glacier County officials, by evaluating the consumer price index as calculated by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, as well as compensation paid to comparable Montana counties, to formulate a fair compensation for elected officials; and

WHEREAS, The Glacier County Board of Commissioners historically establishes a salary increase for employees when the Compensation Board recommends wage increases or cost of living, the Glacier County Board of Commissioners has established a **7%** cost of living increase for all employees, whereas other governing boards (Library and Museum) may set their own salaries per an adopted resolution to be recorded by the County Clerk and Recorder; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with MCA §7-4-2107, each member of the Board of County Commissioners shall receive an annual salary equal to the Clerk and Recorder plus \$2,000; and that in accordance with MCA §7-4-2503(2)(b), county sheriff must receive, in addition to the

base salary, the sum of \$2,000 a year, and that in accordance with MCA §7-4-2503(2)(f), the county treasurer, clerk of district court, and justice of the peace may each receive, in addition to the base salary, up to \$2,000 a year, and that in accordance with MCA §7-4-2503(2)(a), the elected county superintendent of schools must receive, in addition to the salary, the sum of \$400 a year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Glacier County, Montana that effective as of July 1, 2024, the base salaries for the elected officials of Glacier County for fiscal year 2024-2025 are set per the recommendation of the Glacier County Compensation Board as follows:

ELECTED OFFICIAL	FY 2023-24 BASE	STATUTORY ADD-ON	TOTAL
Clerk & Recorder	\$ 62,600.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 63,000.00
County Commissioner	\$ 62,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 64,600.00
Sheriff/Coroner	\$ 62,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 64,600.00
County Treasurer	\$ 62,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 64,600.00
Clerk of Court	\$ 62,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 64,600.00
Justice of the Peace	\$ 62,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 64,600.00
County Attorney	\$ 110,300.00	\$ 0.00	\$110,300.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Glacier County, Montana, that effective July 01, 2024, the salaries for the employees of Glacier County are to be increased by 7% for the cost-of-living adjustment, and that this resolution, upon adoption, will be effective for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Other Glacier County governing boards (Library, Museum, etc.) must approve their own cost of living adjustments and file with the Clerk and Recorder, and County Human Resources.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: this 13th day of August, 2024.

BOARD OF GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\s\ Mary Jo Bremner, Chair

\s\ Vernon “Napi” Billedeaux, Vice-Chair

\s\ John B. Overcast, Member

ATTEST:

\s\Mandi Bird Kennerly, Glacier County Clerk & Recorder

E. Discussion/Approval: Wolfcom Body Camera System Upgrade – Tom Seifert, Glacier County Undersheriff

Tom Seifert, Glacier County Undersheriff and Maurice Redhorn, Glacier County Sheriff present a Wolfcom Quote in the amount of \$23,595.00 (includes shipping) to upgrade all the deputy body worn cameras for approval due to the present cameras failing. The new proposal includes (10) cameras and the server maintenance plan. It also includes if a camera were to break it would be replaced. The quote also states that the cameras will be replaced in 3 years. As technology changes it is a great help to know the cameras will be automatically replaced. There is a discussion on the importance of cameras and how they help avoid lawsuits. Sheriff Redhorn states that they did look at other vendors, but they were extremely high quotes. One quote was \$110,415.00. Commissioner Billedeaux and

Overcast state that this is a good deal. Commissioner Bremner doesn't like the idea of no cameras for lawsuit and safety reasons.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Overcast motions to sign the Wolfcom Quote in the amount of \$23,595.00; Commissioner Billedeaux seconds the motion; motion carried.

F. Discussion/Approval: Purchase a Pick-up (\$58,000.00) – Jimmy Racine, Glacier County Weed Department Coordinator/Supervisor

This item will be tabled to a later date.

G. Discussion/Approval: 2024-11 Appointment of Glacier County Fire Warden – Judd Milender, Glacier County Office of Emergency Management Director/Glacier County Commissioners
Judd Milender, Glacier County Office of Emergency Management Director presents Resolution No. 2024-11 Appointment of Glacier County Fire Warden which would appoint Judd Milender as the Glacier County Fire Warden. He explains that there's been a need for a Glacier County Fire Warden for a long time and he has been doing the ancillary duties for the past two years. He is currently the liaison between the State/Federal departments. There is a discussion with the decision to approve the resolution.

Public Comment

Marti Rutherford, Browning VFD commented.

Commissioner Billedeaux motions to approve Resolution No. 2024-11 Appointment of Glacier County Fire Warden Judd Milender; Commissioner Bremner seconds the motion; motion carried. (Commissioner Overcast – abstain)

**GLACIER COUNTY RESOLUTION
APPOINTMENT OF GLACIER COUNTY FIRE WARDEN
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11**

WHEREAS, Montana Code Annotated (2021) (MCA)§ 7-22-2215(1), provides authority for the Glacier County Board of Commissioners the duty to appoint a county Fire Warden; and,

WHEREAS, A Fire Warden position for Glacier County is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, the position of Fire Warden in Glacier County is an integral part of safety and multi-jurisdictional coordination before, during, and after a wildland fire event; and,

WHEREAS, The Fire Warden's duties, responsibilities, and qualifications, pursuant to MCA§ 7-33-2215(2)(3)(4), are currently performed by The Glacier County Director of the Office of Emergency Management, under the color of necessity and safety for coordination of training and wildland fire prevention, detection, suppression, investigation, and mitigation; and,

WHEREAS, the Appointment of Glacier County Director of the Office of Emergency Management, to the Fire Warden position would be in line with the duties he is performing,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Glacier County Board of Commissioners hereby appoint Glacier County Director of the Office of Emergency Management Judd Milender as the Glacier County Fire Warden, and assume all the duties, responsibilities, and authority as stated in MCA§7-33-2215.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of August, 2024.

BOARD OF GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\s\ Mary Jo Bremner, Chair

\s\ Vernon “Napi” Billedeaux, Vice-Chair

\s\ John B. Overcast, Member

ATTEST:

\s\Mandi Bird Kennerly, Glacier County Clerk & Recorder

OTHER BUSINESS:

H. Public Comment

Mandi Bird Kennerly, Public commented.

I. Next Meeting – Thursday, August 15, 2024 – Cut Bank

Commissioner Overcast motions to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 a.m.; Commissioner Billedeaux seconds the motion; motion carried.