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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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#### MEETINGS SET TO DISCUSS UPDATE TO COLUMBUS GROWTH POLICY

Columbus, MT, January 3, 2024—The County Planning Office, at the direction of the City-County Planning Board, has scheduled public meetings as part of the process to update the Columbus Area Growth Policy. These meetings will be held on Wednesday, January 31, Tuesday, February 27, and Thursday, March 21. All meetings will begin at 5:30 pm and end at 7:00 p.m. Meetings will be held in the meeting room in the West Annex (431 Quarry Road in Columbus).

If you cannot make it to one of the meetings, comments or questions may be sent to the County Planning Office or Planning Consultant Forrest Mandeville. More information can be found online at <https://www.stillwatercountymt.gov/Planning/GrowthPolicyUpdate>.

The Columbus Area Growth Policy was last updated in 2012. Growth policies are an important planning tool in Montana. While optional to adopt, they are a necessary prerequisite before adopting certain ordinances, and are a valuable in securing grants and implementing planning strategies. The City must be guided by, and give consideration to, the general policy and pattern of development set out in the growth policy. However, a growth policy is not a regulatory document and does not confer authority to regulate that is not otherwise authorized by law or other local or state regulations. The City may not withhold, deny, or impose conditions on any proposal based solely on compliance with a growth policy.