

**STILLWATER COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

**Notice:** These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).

**REGULAR MEETING  
July 16, 2019**

**Present:** Commissioners Mark Crago, Chair; Dennis Shupak, Tyrel Hamilton, Members; Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk & Recorder.

Others Present: Scott Waltner, Solid Waste; Roman Gillitzer; Pam Cunningham, Solid Waste; Bill Linger; Maureen Davey; Carol Arkell, DES/GIS; Fiona Nave; Pam Cunningham, Solid Waste; Chip Kem, Sheriff; Shirlee Keffer; Mikaela Koski, Stillwater County News.

**Pledge to the Flag:** Commissioner Crago opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag.

**Minutes:** July 2, 2019

Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the minutes. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

**Claims:** 102880 through 103000 in the amount of \$432,191.76

Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the claims. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

**File Items:** 1. Lease Termination – Termination of lease agreement between Stillwater County and Robert and LaNita Maurer for Suite B, 809 E 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue N, Columbus

2. Justice Court Monthly Report – Monthly report in the amount of \$19,863.75

Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to file the file items. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

**Regular Business:** 1. Resolution 2019-27 - Resolution to approve the final budget for FY 2019-2020. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the resolution. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Discussion – Maureen Davey asked if the letter by the Library Board of Trustees requesting a depreciation fund was included in the budget. Commissioner Crago stated that it was included in the budget but there was no request for a specific amount. The fund has been created and will show in the Library's budget. Maureen said that the Chair had come up with a figure for that fund and presented it to Joe Morse. Commissioner Hamilton stated Joe received the number and spoke with the Commissioners about it during his HR/Finance meeting. The requested figure is not available but there was a figure put into the budget and is available to view. Maureen also asked if the Commission received the mill value from the Department of Revenue. Commissioner Crago replied that the budget is based off last year's mill values. If mill values come in under last year's figures there will be a budget amendment but if the come in the same as last year's values or over there is no need for an amendment.

Department heads and elected officials are aware of this. Maureen stated that traditionally Stillwater County and many other counties historically do not approve their budgets until mill values are received. Motion passed unanimously.

2. EMPG Grant - Accept the Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$45,528.00 with a required county match of \$45,528.00 for a total of \$91,056.00. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to accept the grant. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Discussion – Carol Arkell stated this is a competitive grant through the State DES and FEMA and is used to fund our program. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Planning Board – Appoint a member to the Stillwater County Planning Board. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to nominate Dan Sayer to the planning board. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton stated that the Commission received 7 applications for the planning board. Commissioner Hamilton further stated that he moved to appoint Dan Sayer as he lives in the Park City area and there is no representation from that area currently on the planning board and that he believes he would do a really good job on the board. Commissioner Crago stated that representation from all areas of the county is crucial on the planning board. Shirlee Keffer stated that she believes that is a very wise way to appoint planning board members. Shirlee believes he is very well versed and also feels he will do a good job representing the people of the County on the planning board. Maureen Davey expressed her approval of the choice as well. Commissioner Crago summarized that the Commission was pleased to have seven very good applicants apply for the position. Shirlee expressed that she does not like the question “what qualifications do you have for the planning board.” There are currently only two elected officials that require qualifications and they are the County Attorney and Superintendent of Schools. What makes one resident more qualified than the other when the qualifications are being a resident of the county? Dan is representing Park City and we need to make Park City feel like they are a part of the County. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** Maureen Davey pointed out that there is no information for the 4H Fair on the County website. Commissioner Crago thanked Mikaela for fairly reporting the news for the county and best of luck to her in the future. Maureen agreed with Commissioner Crago’s comment. Shirlee Keffer commented that after attending the Columbus Tuesday night Agenda Meeting, she felt that the Montana Petroleum Association should send representation to the planning board meeting and that members from the Montana Petroleum Association will be attending the next planning board meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Hearing no further business, Commissioner Hamilton recessed the meeting at 9:18 AM.

## **PUBLIC HEARING JULY 16, 2019**

**Present:** Commissioner Mark Crago, Chair; Dennis Shupak and Tyrel Hamilton, members; Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk & Recorder  
Other Present: Roman Gillitzer; Pam Cunningham, Solid Waste; Bill Linger; Natasha Sailer; Scott Waltner, Solid Waste; Russell Seymanski; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Steve Robert Adams; Mikaela Koski, Stillwater County News

## **Open Public**

**Hearing:** Commissioner Crago opened the public hearing at 10:00 AM

**Introductions:** Commissioner Mark Crago, Chair, Dennis Shupak and Tyrel Hamilton, members, Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk & Recorder

**Reason for Hearing:** Increase the solid waste assessment rates

## **Questions and**

**Comments:** Commissioner Crago asked Scott Waltner to provide information on the proposed increase of the solid waste rates. Scott Waltner stated that the Solid Waste Board recommended an increase in rates from \$146.00 to \$185.00 per year. Scott read the letter presented to the Board of County Commissioners requesting the rate increase. The letter is on file in the Clerk & Records office for public viewing. Reasons for the rate increase are steadily increasing fees and the needs for new equipment, solid waste site improvements and wage increases. Commissioner Crago called for any other questions or comments. None heard.

**Call for Proponents:** Commissioner Crago noted he received a letter from Maureen Davey in favor of the increase. Roman Gillitzer, Natasha Sailer and Bill Linger are in favor of the increase.

**Call for Opponents:** Jerry Friend, Steve Adams and Russell Seymanski. Jerry Friend stated that he understands the need for the increase, however, if there was an incremental increase from 2013 the County would be above the requested increase. Jerry feels that large of an increase will adversely affect some taxpayers. Businesses will pass this increase along to taxpayers as well. The elderly and people on fixed incomes may have issues paying the increase. Robert Adams stated that you cannot compare Stillwater County to Kalispell or Missoula, that's not even close to Park City and it does not come close to the population. Jerry stated that he is the one who hears all the complaints when the taxes go out. Jerry also stated that the amount of increase in one year did not have to happen. Robert stated that he is on a fixed wage and that it is it. Jerry reiterated that while he understands the need for it, he feels the county will receive a lot of complaints over it. Robert stated that perhaps they could take more from Columbus or Absarokee and more evenly distribute it. Jerry stated that it is evenly distributed throughout the county with the exception of the City of Columbus, they pay a rate for their city dump. Scott stated that it had been brought up for people to pay for the use and no one was in favor of that option. Commissioner Shupak asked Jerry how do you make sure that everyone is paying the fees? Jerry replied that he does not examine all the tax statements to see if the fees are applied. Solid Waste coordinates with the Department of Revenue to make sure they have the correct fees. Jerry further stated that he has seen newly built homes that do not get picked up by the Department of Revenue and have not paid the fees. He has also found homes that have one home on the property and more than one fees applied. Commissioner Crago asked if there were any more opponents. Russell Seymanski asked if there has been an increase in tonnage over the years? Scott reviewed the tonnage per year back to 2014 and replied that the tonnage has not had any major increases through the years. Russell agreed that tonnage has not increased that much but why do all the improvements and equipment need to be done all at once. Scott replied that it would not be all at once but over years. Commissioner Crago stated that questions and comments should have been addressed before the call for proponents and opponents. Commissioner Crago called for any more opponents.

Hearing will remain open for written comments until 8:30 AM Tuesday July 23, 2019. Final approval and adoption will be 9:00 am on Tuesday July 23, 2019 at the regular agenda meeting.

Commissioner Crago adjourned the meeting at 9:47 AM

APPROVED BY: /s/  
Mark Crago, Commissioner Chairman  
ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder