

**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)).

**SECOND READING  
ORDINANCE 2018-01  
MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGULATIONS  
NOVEMBER 20, 2018 – 1:30 PM - COUNTY PAVILION**

**Present:** Commissioners Dennis Shupak, Chair; Maureen Davey and Mark Crago, Members; and Lori Dobitz, Administrative Assistant.

Others Present: Jeff Bermes, Columbus School; Becky Matovich; Leslie Price and Ramona Whelchel, Stillwater Billings Clinic; Bill Pronovost, DES; Shelly Yeager, Rosebud Remedies; Sheriff Clifford Brophy; Rich Cowger, Columbus Fire District; Tasha Harr, Phyllis Brown; Katie Bitterman, Ralph Hughes, and Jim Yeager; Jacob Ward, Columbus Police Chief; and Mikaela Koski, Stillwater County News.

**Open Second Reading:** Commissioner Crago opened the reading at 1:30 PM with introductions. He stated this is the Second Reading of Ordinance 2018-01 *Declaring the Operation of Medical Marijuana Storefronts to be Prohibited and Providing for Regulations to Regulate Medical Marijuana Providers and Marijuana-infused Products Providers within Stillwater County, Montana*. A copy of the ordinance was made available on the county website and provided at the reading.

Commissioner Crago proceeded with the second reading of Ordinance 2018-01. Following the reading, he stated if passed, the ordinance would go into effect 30-days following a passing and approval upon second reading.

**Motion:** Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to pass and approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2018-01. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Crago stated the county attorney is in court but wanted it stated it is not the intent of the county, with the ordinance, to tell people how they should try to treat themselves, not saying whether or not medical marijuana is right for you or anyone else. He said all this is doing is trying to regulate the location and the distribution of it. He reminded the group that they are on public record when speaking and to keep the comments pertinent to the ordinance. Commissioner Davey stated she has read the law and the ordinance several times and she is comfortable in passing the ordinance.

**Public Comments:** Jim Yeager, Rosebud Remedies, asked what Commissioner Davey meant by passing the ordinance. Commissioner Davey explained that what Commissioner Crago just read would be passed. Leslie Price stated that she works for Stillwater Billings Clinic Community Health and Public as well as home health. She read a letter from the public health nurse into the record that supports the banning of medicinal marijuana storefronts in Stillwater County. The letter stated there is much concern as to placement of these storefronts in our rural communities and they want to ensure that we are protecting and adequately educating our youth and citizens from the notion that there is no harm in utilization of medicinal and/or recreational marijuana. Jeff Bermes, Superintendent of Columbus Schools, stated he is in favor of the ordinance for the safety of the students. He stated having the visibility of a storefront with the promotion of marijuana is not something the students should be witnessing. Bermes said there is already enough trouble with drugs and alcohol. Bermes said the ordinance does not help him in regards to his school district being in the City of Columbus, which is discouraging, as it is on a main fairway that our kids use to access other businesses. He said it is important other students be provided protection as a public service to our communities and our county.

**Vote:** Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Shupak called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Crago stated that Ordinance 2018-01 will become effective December 20, 2018.

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Shupak adjourned the meeting at 1:53 PM. The Commissioners thanked everyone for their attendance.