

## STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 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)).

### **PUBLIC HEARING and REGULAR AGENDA SPRING CREEK BRIDGE APRIL 12, 2016 - 9:00 AM**

**Present:** Commissioner Maureen Davey, Co-Chair; and Gerald W. Dell, Member; Lori Dobitz, Administrative Assistant; Mark Schreiner and Randy Werdal, Road & Bridge; Bill Lloyd, Great West Engineering; Carol Arkell, DES 911 Coordinator; Sheriff Clifford Brophy; and Rick Hanners, Stillwater County News.

**Open the Hearing:** Commissioner Davey opened the Public Hearing at 9:00 AM with introductions of staff and Bill Lloyd of Great West Engineering. She said the purpose of the hearing is to obtain comments from the residents of the County regarding the Preliminary Engineering Reports and the submittal of a Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) grant application for the replacement of the Spring Creek Road Bridge crossing the Stillwater River approximately 7 miles west of Absarokee. Following the hearing, resolutions will be considered for adoption, Davey said. Commissioner Davey then asked Bill Lloyd to address those present.

Bill Lloyd said the intent of today's hearing is to solicit comment on the Preliminary Engineering Report and the TSEP Grant Application for the Spring Creek Bridge Replacement. A handout summary was provided to those in attendance. He said Stillwater County intends to submit an application to the Treasurer State Endowment Program to partially fund the replacement of this single-lane bridge. The county is responsible for maintaining thirty-five bridges and this project has been in need for several years and has risen to the top of the county's agenda. This is primarily due to the sixteen full-time residences and eight ranches that the bridge provides primary access to. It is weight limited at 15 tons, therefore, does not allow safe passage of most county road maintenance equipment, commercials large equipment and trucks cannot pass over this structure. The 18-mile detour is not suitable for heavy truck traffic and creates a significant inconvenience to residents and also presents concerns for emergency response. The bridge is also on a school route and a mail route.

Bill Lloyd said the Spring Creek Bridge is a very good candidate for the TSEP Program. He said the TSEP Grant Program is a very competitive grant program, and bridges are just one of the public works projects that it will

fund. Other projects include waste water, water projects, solid waste, and storm water projects. He said up to 20% of the overall funding of the program, which is typically 15-20 million, every 2 years, can be allocated toward bridge projects. It requires a dollar for dollar match, so it will fund up to half of the bridge project, the remainder needs to come from other sources, most often the county. In this case, the project is estimated at almost exactly an one-million dollar project, which does include 10 percent contingencies to account for any unknowns that may be encountered during the design process. The county would be responsible for identifying half of that amount for match and the remainder should come from TSEP if we are fortunate to have it funded by the 2017 Legislature. The TSEP Program is funded from the State coal severance tax. Lloyd said it is always the interest earned that funds these projects every two years.

Bill Lloyd said the existing bridge is substandard and incapable of absorbing vehicular travel estimated traffic volume of 250 vehicles per day and does not allow for two-way travel or oversized vehicles. The proposed solution involves replacing the existing bridge with a three-span precast, prestressed, concrete bulb tee beam superstructure with a driven piling substructure system. The new bridge will be located in the same general location as the existing bridge and will span the entire stream at an overall length of 124 feet. The replacement structure will insure two-way travel, waterway adequacy, adequately handle loading requirements, provide structurally adequate rail and approach end sections, and conform to County Bridge Standard requirements.

Proponents - Commissioner Davey called for proponents, those in favor of applying for TSEP Funding to replace the Spring Creek Bridge.

1. Sheriff Clifford Brophy said he strongly supports the program. It is a public service issue, and an important part of the southern portion of the county if evacuation is required. He said the current rock slide shows us the critical limits of roads and bridges in that area. He supports improving this bridge with replacement.

2. Carol Arkell, DES Coordinator/Fire Warden/911, said she is in support of this project, not only for the Fire Departments but for other emergency services to get into that area.

3. Mark Schreiner, Road & Bridge Superintendent, supports the replacement of the bridge in order to perform maintenance on the roads on the other side of the bridge. He explained the difficulty in transporting material across the one-lane bridge to do road work on the other side.

Opponents - Commissioner Davey called for opponents, those not in favor of applying for TSEP Funding to replace the Spring Creek Bridge. Hearing none, Commissioner Davey closed this portion of hearing at 9:11 A.M.

**Claims:** Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve two Claims/Manual Warrants No. 94877 and 94878 in the amount of \$41,682.00. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

**Special Issues:** Stillwater River Road Rockslide: Commission Dell reported he had a conversation with Scott Walker, Shannon & Wilson this morning. He said they were able to complete their work last week. They are awaiting information from the company that did the drone work . He is also awaiting information from the rockfall company out of Denver. Walker said it will not take more than 3 weeks to receive and compile the information for the Commission for the FEMA Grant Application, Dell said.

**Regular Business** - Prior to discussing Regular Business, Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to remove item #1 from the consent agenda (Social Media Plan) and place it on the regular agenda as item #4. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Department of Public Health and Human Services DPHHS - Commissioner Dell read a letter from DPHHS. He explained this is a yearly designation of earmarked alcohol tax Money that Stillwater County receives. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve use of the money for prevention and outpatient services as done in past years. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Road & Bridge - The Commission received and reviewed a request from the Road Department to seek bids for 40,000 cy of gravel at the Marsh Pit. The pit is located on Gee Road in Sec 29, T2N, R21E, MPM southeast of Rapelje. Mark Schreiner, Road Superintendent, explained he was almost out of gravel in the northern part of the county and they need to finish some roads and conduct maintenance of those roads in the Rapelje area. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the request. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Davey said in speaking with other counties we are very fortunate to have gravel in the county because a lot of counties don't have it.
3. Sheriff's Office -
  - a. ENS - Vendor Selection - Sheriff Brophy explained the county is in the process of finding a different vendor for the Emergency Notification System (ENS). The previous vendor, he said, was going to raise their price to about \$15,000 a year. He said because of this cost, he looked for some other vendors. The LEPC looked at four vendors and their recommendation was to select Code Red for a cost of \$5,500 per year and enter into a contract. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the request for the ENS vendor selection of Code Red and execute a contract. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Victim Witness - Sheriff Brophy explained the annual agreement for the Victim/Witness Program for Carbon, Sweet Grass, and Stillwater County. He said this is about the sixteenth year that we have participated in the program. The grant was approved by the state of Montana, Brophy said. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the Interlocal Agreement as presented. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Davey stated this has been a very valuable cooperative effort between the three counties and the funds are there fortunately for it to continue.

4. Social Media Plan - Commissioner Davey said she thinks social media and facebook are very valuable for offices. It is the way of the future but she has had constituents bring it to the Commissions attention that on the county facebook page they see more than county business. She said it is a good idea to keep to business and give them the information that is most valuable. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the Social Media Plan for the Tri-County Victim/Witness Program. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda**

1. County Library - Lofing Electric - Electrical Service Proposal in the amount of \$1,885

**File Items**

1. Clerk & Recorder - fees collected for month ending March 31, 2016 totaled \$7,737.03
2. District Court - fees collected for the quarter ending March 31, 2016 totaled \$13,271.73
3. Justice Court - fees collected for the month ending March 31, 2016 totaled \$15,138.24
4. Sheriff - fees collected for the month ending March 31, 2016 totaled \$150 and quarter \$1,150
5. Economic Development - Monthly Report of Projects for March 2016.

Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda and place the file items to file. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** none heard.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Davey thanked everyone for attending and called the meeting adjourned at 9:29 A.M.