

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)).

REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 20, 2016

- Present:** Commissioners Dennis Shupak, Chair; Maureen Davey, and Gerald W. Dell, Members; Lori Dobitz, Administrative Assistant. Others present: Rich Cowger, Chief CRFD; Nick Jacobs and Travis Hansen, CRFD; Heidi Stadel, Clerk and Recorder; Mark Crago, Commissioner Elect; Nancy Rohde, County Attorney; Clifford Brophy, Sheriff; Carol Arkell, DES Coordinator; Jacob Ward, Columbus Police Chief; Curt Robbins, CRFD; and Marlo Pronovost; Stillwater County News.
- Open Meeting:** Commissioner Shupak opened the meeting at 9:00 am with the pledge to the flag.
- Minute Approval:** Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the minutes of November 1, 2016. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.
- Claims:** Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve Claims No's. 96597-96719 in the amount of \$388,780.94 and Claim No's. 96720-96721 in the amount of \$6,520.08. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.
- Recognition:** Board Member recognition for public service: Richard Nauman was recognized for his service of 21 years on the Solid Waste Board.
- Regular business:**
1. Treasurer - Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to approve the Repurchase Agreement with First Interstate Bank as recommended by Jerry Friend, Treasurer. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.
 2. Commissioners Resolution: Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to adopt **Resolution 2016-41**, a resolution to rescind Resolution 2016-38, a resolution to determine county office space options and will be reconsidered at a later date. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Discussion: Commissioner Davey said the commission heard discussion that this was an ambiguous title for the resolution, "county space options". She said in looking at past correspondence and files in the Clerk and Recorders Office, the issue has been called "courthouse office space project", it has had numerous names. She said it was clear to her, maybe because she has been into the process so deeply for over 6-years. It has been confusing because during our last agenda meeting, someone said the county bought the old hospital when in fact the county owns the building and paid off the hospital bonds so they can move forward with building a new hospital as desired by the community. She said it is hard to educate people on that issue when they don't totally understand

the whole thing. Davey said it wasn't her intent or the intent of the commission to not be up front in this resolution. For the sake of being clear to the public, she supports the resolution. Davey made it clear that she is firm in saying that she "*is not in favor of putting the county in debt with bonds.*" [emphasis added]. She spoke to the Local Government Center in Bozeman who agreed to facilitate a meeting with the Commissioners and the public. She said if one has not been through this for the past 6-7 years, like the commission has been, you have to do your homework. The documents are available in the Clerk & Records office and have been for quite awhile.

Commissioner Dell agrees with Commissioner Davey in regards to rescinded the resolution. He hopes as the county moves forward on this, that they reconsider (the commission) the old hospital for county office space so that we can "empty the courthouse" and get offices ready for remodeling in the old courthouse which so many people want to preserve the old courthouse as offices. He gave a challenge to those that disagree with the Commission to drive 40 miles to the west and look at what Sweet Grass County did with their old hospital which is basically the same vintage. They remodeled it, moved the majority of their offices in to it, and it is working our fine. He said you can travel the state of Montana, to various counties and courthouses - there are very few counties in the state of Montana that everybody, every office, is in one location, because of space locations, he said. A committee was suggested, he said, to be appointed and study this project. He said since 2014, a nine-member committee was appointed to look at the option of a new library for Stillwater County. Right now, three years later, the library building concept has grown to a three building facility to include a building for two county offices. That is not what the commission charged the committee with, he said. He hopes that the remodeling the old hospital does not get kicked to the side.

Commissioner Shupak said the 1.5 million in bonds that the county paid off was money the hospital borrowed to build the Meadowlark Assisted Living; remodel the Sadie Copulous wing; and remodel a kitchen in the hospital, all of which the money was appropriated for.

Commissioner Shupak called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously. Filed in the Clerk and Records Office Document No. 367415

3. Columbus Fire District - Commissioner Dell read the draft resolution to order a referendum on the creation the Stillwater Ambulance District #1 submitted by Rich Cowger, Columbus Fire Chief. The mail ballot election is to be held on May 2, 2017, to allow voters within the proposed special district to vote in favor of or against a proposition stated as "Shall the proposition to organize Stillwater Ambulance District #1 be adopted?" as authorized by Sections 7-11-1001 through 7-11-1029 MCA. The district is will comprised of the boundaries of the City of Columbus; the Columbus Elementary School District; the Reed Point School District; the Rapelje Elementary School District; and the Columbus Rural Fire District #3.

Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to adopt **Resolution 2016-42**, a resolution to order a Referendum on the creation of the Stillwater Ambulance District #1. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Heidi Stadel explained the complications that may arise of holding the election on March 16, 2017, as proposed. She said a special election involving a federal position that Congress Zinke held, whom is being appointed to the President Elect Trump's cabinet, could interfere with the mail ballot. Also discussed is whether the proposed district would be time barred to hold another election if this one should fail. Nancy Rohde, County Attorney, said it was her and the fire district attorney's conclusion that they would not be time barred and that they would be able to go forward another referendum. Rohde also confirmed the time-line would begin anew if that should happen. Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to change the election date to May 2, 2017. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Shupak called for a vote on the main motion. Motion passed unanimously. Filed in the Clerk and Records Office - Document No. 367416.

- Consent Agenda**
1. Commissioners- Beartooth RC&D Memorandum of Understanding to assist in Economic Development.
 2. Human Resources - Sapphire Employee Assistance Program Service Agreement - Modification 5.

- File Items:**
1. Department Reports:
 - a. Treasurer Cash Report - month ending November 30, 2016
 - b. Sheriff's Fees - month ending November 30, 2016.

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

Public Comments: Commissioner Davey publicly thanked Commissioner Dell for his service on the Board of Commissioners for the past 6-years. She said he has been extremely dedicated to this county, stating this is not a 8-5 job, this is a 24 hour 7-day a week, which he went above and beyond the call of duty. She said he always acted in the best interest of the county. She said relationships and trust is everything. Somebody's word is who they are, and she and the county will miss him very much. Commissioner Shupak said Commissioner Dell was a pleasure to work with and thanked him for his service.

Meeting Adjourned: Hearing no further business, Commissioner Shupak adjourned the meeting at 9:31 AM