

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 17, 2015**

Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes were approved and will be filed with the Clerk and Recorder (MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b)) in their entirety, and the complete current month ending, along with resolutions and other supporting documents.

Present: Commissioners Dennis Shupak, Chair; Maureen Davey and Gerald W. Dell, Members; Lori Dobitz, Administrative Assistant; Jon and Steve Ott; Dennis Holten, Town of Columbus Public Works; Marissa Hauge, Economic Development Coordinator; Mark Schreiner, Road Superintendent; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; and Robert Whitham, Stillwater County News.

Public Comments: Public Comment on matters within the Commissioners jurisdiction pursuant to §2-3-103, MCA, public comments will be accepted on any public matter that is not scheduled on the Agenda.
No comments were heard.

Reports:

1. 2015 Legislative Session - Commissioner Davey gave updates on SB 290 Short Title - *Apply private motor carrier safety standards to certain publicly owned vehicles*. She said the bill would require all public agency's to follow the same Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration rules and regulations that commercial carriers need to follow. This would limit the hours of service in a truck greater than 26000 GVW, require specific lighting standards on those trucks, fire extinguishers in every truck, background checks, log books in each truck, etc. She said the hearing is March 20, 2015, and MACo is urging counties to contact their senator to vote against on this bill. If passed, it will cause insurmountable costs and lost productivity to most small counties according to MACo, she said.

Commissioner Davey also said she is watching HB 123 Short title - *Generally revise public record laws*. She said one thing, in the last couple of years, that has happened to this office and this county is having records being asked for immediately. She gave an example of a request that came into the Commissioners office at 10:30 am and requestor stated they have a publication deadline and an article is going to be published with or without the information. She read some new language as proposed: *Upon receiving a request for public*

information, a public agency shall respond in a timely manner to the requesting person. She said it further reads: providing the requesting person with an estimate of the time it will take to fulfill the request if the public information cannot be readily identified and gathered. . . saying this would be very helpful for county government. She said we want accurate and truthful information to anybody that asks for it, but we can't drop all of our business. Sometimes it takes us a lot of time to find these records and we have other business going on. We certainly want to share that information but we can't drop our current business and give the information out when it is requested within a couple of hours.

2. Treasurer- Cash and Investments totaled \$29,829,437.41 for the month ending February 28, 2015. Commissioner Davey asked the Treasurer about a couple of additions to the report, specifically the Leuthold and the Yeagen Scholarships. Jerry Friend, Treasurer, said they have always been there, just not broken out on the report. He said it is easier for him to break them out and the interest they generate go directly to the schools they are associated with.
3. Sheriff - Fees in the amount of \$550 were collected for the month ending February 28, 2015.

Courthouse Facilities

Space Project:

Commissioner Dell said the Commission received a letter from Spectrum Group Architects dated March 10, 2015, with clarification in regards to the High Plains Opinion for Lame Deer School District. He said the letter has been filed in the Clerk & Records office available for anyone to view. He also stated that since this process started with the informational meetings held in January, he has been approached many times by people giving various opinions on how they feel about the options put forth. While attending a function in Absarokee, he said he was approached by one of the larger ranchers in the area. He said he was very adamant and opposed to spending 15 to 17 million dollars to build a new courthouse. He voiced his concern about the situation of Stillwater Mine, Dell said, saying it is not as good as everyone thinks it is at this time. If the mine were to go down in production it would affect the taxes in this county. Dell said the rancher did not want to see a large bond issue out there.

Boards/Committees: Commissioner Dell read a list of vacancies on various boards and committees as follows:

Board of Health; Park City Fire District; Columbus Fire District; Beartooth Park and Recreation District; Solid Waste Board; Compensation Board; and Tax Appeal Board. Notices have been posted on the county website, county bulletin board, and in the Stillwater County News.

MDT: Commissioner Davey stated the Montana Department of Transportation visited with the commission a couple of weeks ago to update them on current projects they are working on. During that conversation, the Commissioners brought forth concerns regarding speed limits and curves on S306 Rapelje Road and S421 Joliet Road. The Commission received a response letter stating the speed zone study schedule is currently backlogged and the Traffic Section of MDT may not be able to complete the study for several months.

Planning: The Commission received a MEMO from Doug Riley, CTA Group Contract Planner stating the Town of Columbus is requesting \$2,164.50 of the county's cash-in-lieu of park land funds to assist in the purchase of a needed easement for the development of the Community Transportation Enhancement Project (CTEP) walking path along Old US 10/Pike Avenue and Quarry Road and the Mountain View Cemetery. Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to approve the request. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

Application for Road

Encroachment: Application 2015-06, Jon Ott, Westfork Construction, Applicant, to reconstruct the last 1.5 miles of Triple Tree Road to county specifications and installing culverts as needed, located in Sec. 9, T1N, R19E, MPM. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the application. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to amended the main motion to conditionally approve the Application #2015-06 as with the conditions recommended by the Road Superintendent. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:26 AM