

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
MAY 19, 2015**

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

Present: Commissioners Dennis Shupak, Chair; and Gerald W. Dell, Member; Lori Dobitz, Administrative Assistant; Carol Arkell, Fire Warden; Shirlee Keffer, Stillwater Republican Women; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Coralee Hicks, and Marlo Pronovost, Stillwater County News. Commissioner Davey was not in attendance as she is attending the NACO - Western Interstate Region Meeting.

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.
Shirlee Keffer, Stillwater Republican Women, commented noted for the record that one resident and two departments heads, the editor of the paper, and herself are present for today's meeting.

Minutes Approval: Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the regular agenda held on May 5, 2015, as presented. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**.
Motion passed.

Report(s): John Beaudry, Stillwater Mining Public Affairs Manager, submitted for the record the following reports.

1. Stillwater Mining Company - East Boulder Annual Impact Monitoring Report - 2014
2. Nye Annual Impact Monitoring Report - 2014

Courthouse Facilities

Space Project: Commissioner Dell stated the Commission received (7) seven written comments from the following persons:

1. Mina Morse, Columbus
2. Miles Borges, Structural Engineering Firm
3. Raymond Lein, Absarokee
4. Jessica Burch, Columbus
5. Ethel Pelton, Fishtail

6. Fena Klingberg, Fishtail
7. Avril Keller, Fishtail

Commissioner Dell said the majority of these written comments are recommending Alternative No. 2., which is the remodel of the existing courthouse and build a new law and justice center on the same site. Commissioner Dell said all written comments will be placed on file in the Clerk & Records Office. Commissioner Shupak asked if there are any more comments.

Shirlee Keffer stated she is in favor of preserving the courthouse. She said it is interesting, having attended both meetings in Columbus, and she has read most of the letters of those who had taken the time to submit their thoughts. She said *in last weeks Stillwater County News, there was an article (Letters to the Editor) titled "don't let special interest groups decide future", he was opposing anything done to the courthouse. Another article was titled "it's a no brainer about the old hospital". I think we have to keep in mind when we have different view points, that we can be civil and that we can show character in caring as our county. We should offer solutions rather than tear things apart.* She also thinks the Norton House is in need of attention and could it be moved without jeopardizing the historical registry designation. *The meeting of May 5, 2015, some commented that the old hospital should be torn down and sold for residential lots, that the roof is terrible and one could fall through it. My question is, has there been a structural inspection done on the old hospital, and if it is only needing a new roof and perhaps some renovation inside, she is in favor of moving the county library to the old hospital. I know the Library Steering Committee is pursuing plans of wanting to build over by Granite Peak Park. They have plans that include a banquet facility, a learning center, and the county library. I am opposed the county renting out a facility that should be private enterprise. In my thoughts of preserving the courthouse, look to an architect whose speciality is restoring old buildings. History is important and is it feasible that it could be restored and the differential be addressed and an elevator be installed. I stand today as special interest of one. There are special interest of those opposed, there are special interest of those that approve, and there are special interest of the employees of the county. When it comes down to our Commissioners making a decision, ultimately if there were bonds, that would go to the voters.*

Jerry Friend, Treasurer, said he would like to expand a little bit. He was also in attendance at the public hearing and one thing he did not think about mentioning - *I have got to give the sitting board of commissioners kudos for at least doing something.* Whether one disagrees or agrees with it, the commissioners pulled satellite offices for which we were paying rent - into a county owned building, which makes good business sense, he said.

Proposed Burn Permit

Service: Commissioner Dell said written comments were received on the proposed burn permit from the following:

1. Carol Arkell, Fire Warden - in favor of the system.
2. Martin L. Martin, Nye Resident - in opposition to the system.

Commissioner Shupak asked for any other public comments.

Shirlee Keffer said she attended the public hearing and questioned the fee structure. She believes that if everyone were responsible individuals, and we self govern ourselves, we wouldn't put a match to a controlled burn in unfavorable conditions, and when you do, you need to monitor that burn as well. She said at the present time, she is in the middle as to the approval or oppose the system.

Resolution: Commissioners Agenda Meeting - Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to adopt **Resolution 2015-13** to cancel the agenda meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2015, rescheduling to meet on Monday, June 1, 2015, at 11:00 AM; and hold a Special Agenda on June 1, 2015, at 1:30 PM to take action on the proposed burn permit service. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion carried.

Dept. of Public Health and

Human Services: Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve Task Order 16-07-5-01-067-0 to the Stillwater Unified Government Master Contract that covers the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2019 Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program.

Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed.

The quarterly payments of \$1,596 are passed through the county and then are sent onto the Public Health Department, Dell said.

Human Resources: Out of office Notification - Commissioner Maureen Davey is attending NACo's Western Interstate Regional Meeting (WIR) and will be out-of-state May 18-22, 2015.

Treasurer's Office

Refund of Taxes: Commissioner Dell read a draft order prepared for the County Treasurer to issue refunds for the 2013 taxes that were erroneously calculated and collected for the Soil and Conservation District, pursuant to 15-16-603, MCA. Commissioner Dell said this problem was brought to our attention as a result of the county's annual audit for tax year 2013-2014. Dell said the Commission asked for an opinion from the County Attorney, and this is the route we have chosen to go. Jerry Friend, Treasurer, said it has been a complicated process to go through. Out of the eight or nine thousand taxpayers in Soil and Conservation District, we had to figure out who

overpaid, he said. The software company, Black Mountain, is working to assist with creating a report that could be transferred into a spreadsheet based on what the taxpayers were suppose to pay. He said they came up with approximately 1,650 taxpayers that overpaid in the approximate amount of \$28,000 total. Friend said it will take some time to prepare and process the refunds and mail them out all together. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to issue the Order to the County Treasurer to refund the overpaid taxes on the Soil and Conservation District for tax year 2013. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**.

Discussion - Commissioner Dell stated in going through the list of those due a refund and pick out a certain area where they reside, not everyone in that certain area overpaid. He said one of his neighbors overpaid and others did not. How this happened, we don't know, he said.

Vote - Commissioner Shupak called for a vote. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:29 AM