

**STILLWATER COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**

**REGULAR AGENDA  
JUNE 30, 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; Maureen Davey and Gerald W. Dell, Members; Joe Morse, Finance Specialist; Jessica Burch; Mark Schreiner, Road Superintendent; Will Patterson, Weed Coordinator; Shirlee Keefer, Stillwater Republican Women; Renee Coppock; Coralee Hicks; Rick Hamilton, Stillwater Historical Society; Marissa Hauge, Economic Development; Nancy Rohde, County Attorney; Penny Redli, Stillwater Historic Society; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Alban Bassuet, Tippet Rise; and Marlo Pronovost, 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. **Shirlee Keffer** - stated she was glad to see the agenda item on the courthouse project. She also made the suggestion of posting quarterly budget reports on the county website.

**Minutes Approval:** Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Emergency Meeting held on June 3; and the regular meeting of June 9, 2015, as presented. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed.

**Tippet Rise Art Center:** Commissioner Shupak stated the next item on the Agenda is the Tippet Rise Art Center, however, we are awaiting the arrival of Alban Bassuet, Executive Director. Commissioner Shupak stated the commission will continue with the agenda until Mr. Bassuet arrives.

**Report(s):** 1. Office of the Governor - The Commission received Notice of Treasurer State Endowment Program Planning Grant Award in the amount of \$15,000 to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report for the bridge system. Commissioner Dell stated this planning grant is for the Spring Creek Bridge South of Absarokee. 2. Courthouse Facility Space Project - Commissioner Dell said he would like to answer a couple of questions that were raised by Shirlee Keefer in public comments a couple of weeks ago. In reference to a comment about an architectural firm that has historical building background - Dell said you can visit the Clerk & Records Office and Spectrum Group Architects Design Portfolio is filed under Document # 352368 starting on page 169 it lists several historic buildings/courthouses/town halls which they have remodeled. Commissioner Dell said a question regarding the Norton House and the Historical Society can be better addressed by

Penny Redli and Rick Hamilton. Redli stated the local Historical Society is assisting Bill Hagen with his restoration project. She said he is trying to fund raise in order to proceed with the updates he received bids on. Coralee Hicks asked what is the next step for the courthouse project. Commissioner Dell said the project is sitting in limbo at this time because we are right in the middle of budgets. Once we complete the budget process we will get back into the courthouse project and make some decisions on how we are going to proceed forward. He said he envisions a meeting with our architect (Spectrum Group). Commissioner Davey said this project has taken a tremendous amount of our time and explained that other important county business is taking priority like the budget. Davey said as the time permits, it will be addressed. Coralee Hicks asked if those meetings with the architects will be open to public. Commissioner Davey responded that all of our meetings are open public meetings except for two things, personnel and litigation.

**Stillwater River Road: Rockslide update** - Mark Schreiner, Road & Bridge Superintendent, said engineers have visited the site of the slide. He said the engineering firm is working to come up with solutions on how to continue with it because there is some loose rock and some areas that will come down, but they don't know when. The engineers will prepare three 3 different scenarios of how to handle or manage the rock, by keeping it out of the river. Schreiner has a call into Montana FWP on how to minimize that problem. Commissioner Davey said it is a very dangerous situation up there - we don't want any of our employees or anybody else going up there working because of the rock being so unstable. "Those rocks are talking to us right now" she said. Mark Schreiner said once he receives the report back from GeoStabilization International (GSI) he will have a public meeting and figure out what we are going to do and try to keep everyone informed of what is going on. Commissioner Davey said she talked to a couple in the slide area and told them once we hear something, we would have another information meeting up there. She said the slide has increased their driving distance to Absarokee. Mark Schreiner said he is hoping to get a report by next week.

**Tippet Rise Art Center:** Commissioner Shupak welcomed Alban Bassuet, Executive Director of Tippet Rise to the meeting. Commissioner Dell asked Nancy Rohde, County Attorney give a synopsis of the road agreement between the Tippet Rise and Stillwater County. She stated it is an agreement we have entered into with Alban Bassuet and Renée Coppock, Attorney for Tippet Rise. The agreement anticipates several things that would occur while road construction is occurring on South Grove Creek Road. She said Tippet Rise is an organization that is building a pretty substantial things out for the community. As part of that, Tippet Rise is going to work on the county road and improve some areas for increased traffic their organization will bring. This agreement covers things such as dust abatement and other things that our constituents are concerned about when there is increased traffic on a county road, Rohde said. She said the agreement has been reviewed thoroughly by herself, Mark Schreiner, Alban Bassuet, and Renee Coppock. Rohde said a weed agreement and a revegetation plan is being drafted and once approved by our Weed Coordinator, it will become part of this agreement. Alban Bassuet said he thought it was worth mentioning that South Grove Creek Road is a very dangerous road, a 2 mile stretch with very poor line of sight. The condition of the road is pretty damaged and it is a county road. So the last thing we want to see is anything bad happen on that road. We are very keen on taking on the expense and renovating the road, he said. Commissioner Davey said that road was developed for rural use and this would certainly go beyond that rural use. That is why we are here, Davey said.

Will Patterson said he reviewed the Memorandum from DOWL for weed management and the revegetation plan and approved it with a correction that “two” be added to amount of years for the control of noxious weeds within the construction area or until the revegetation is approved and accepted by Stillwater County. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the road agreement between Tippet Rise, LLC and Stillwater County for work on the South Grove Creek Road with the attached Seeding Specification and weed management plan prepared by DOWL. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Discussion - Commissioner Davey said we have done road agreements in the past, once with the wind farm north of Reed Point and also with developers. She said this is not an unusual process to go through. When there is exceptional or additional wear and tear on a county road. It has been a very success program. **Vote** - Commissioner Shupak called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Encroachment Permit Application #2015-20 - Tippet Rise, LLC., applicant, to develop a county road specifically described at 96 South Grove Creek Road, Fishtail, MT located in the NW1/4 NE 1/4 of Sec 24, T4S, R17E, MPM, Geocode 32-0616-24-2-01-0000, 5,200 feet from the intersection of Davidson Road and South Grove Creek Road. Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to approve the application for an Encroachment Permit as recommended by the Road Superintendent. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

**USDA APHIS Wildlife Services:** Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to approve the Memorandums of Understanding with Montana Stock Growers and Montana Wool Growers Association for predator control for protection of cattle (.50 per head generating \$15,218) and sheep (.60 per head generating \$4,501) from destructive animals. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Dell said the assessments collected are mainly used for flying for all predators. Commissioner Davey explained that the Department of Revenue generates the number of sheep and cattle in the county that the owners are assessed. Those monies then are distributed to the USDA Wildlife Services.

**County Website:** Marissa Hauge, Economic Development Coordinator/Web Master, said she approached the Commission during her budget meeting with the need of a new website. She said our website through the State of Montana is approximately 15-years old and is not mobile friendly. She said it is not doing the job we intended to do. Hauge said more and more information including Commissioner minutes and some videos are being added to the website and people are unable to access it on mobile devices. Betula Creative is a local business that is qualified for the development of a new design and provide maintenance for the site, Hauge said. Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the agreement between Stillwater County and Betula Creative in the total amount of \$11,000 (with 50% down - and 50% upon completion) for the development of a new county website. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Discussion - Commissioner Davey said that Jessica Burch (owner) is a local Columbus resident and it is good to see her succeeding, and she has developed numerous websites. **Vote** - Motion passed unanimously. Jessica said the goal is to roll out the new website in approximately 6 months.

**Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPPHS):** Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to approve Task Order 16-07-6-11-050-0 to Stillwater County Unified Government Master Contract (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) in the amount of \$39,667. Commissioner Dell

**SECONDED.** Motion passed unanimously.

**US. Forest Service Agreement:** Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the Modification for agreement No. 14RO110 for road blading the West Rosebud Road in Custer Gallatin National Forest in an amount not to exceed \$4,000. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED.** Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution:** Metal Mines License Tax (MMLT) - Joe Morse, Finance Specialist, explained this distribution happens to be a little different because our distribution last fall, the numbers were questioned by School Superintendent Al Sipes. From the research conducted by the County Attorney, we should be using the Tax Base Sharing numbers rather than the Impact Monitoring Report. Morse said he made the correction for the overpayments for some districts and under payments of other districts on our first-half distribution and basically makes those districts whole for the entire year on this one, he said. Joe Morse said he will be drafting a letter to go out to affected school districts with an explanation of the issue. Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to adopt **Resolution 2015-20** to distribute MMLT for the second six months of 2014. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED.** Motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:54 AM**

**Claims and Warrants:** Claims were examined and warrants ordered drawn in the amount of \$524,096.67 and payroll in the amount of \$330,267.47 for a total of \$854,364.14 for the month ending June 30, 2015.

APPROVED BY: Dennis Shupak, Commissioner Chairman

ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder