

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 21, 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; Lori Dobitz, Administrative Assistant; Marissa Hauge, Economic Development; Carol Arkell, Fire Warden; and Rick Hanners, 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.

Minutes Approval: Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to approve the minutes of June 23, 2015 and June 30, 2015, with corrections. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously

Report: Resilient Forests Act of 2015 - Commissioner Davey reported she drafted a letter in support of HR 2647 which the commission sent to Congressman Zinke. She reported it passed the House and is on its way to Senate. She said forest health and management has been a long addressed topic and this bill addresses those concerns. The letter has also been shared with Senators Tester and Daines; Montana Association of Counties; and National Association of Counties.

Stillwater River Road: Rockslide update - Commissioner Dell reported the Commission received a letter dated July 13, 2015, from GeoStablization International (GSI), offering a preliminary proposal to perform rock fall remediation services along the Stillwater River Road. Commissioner Dell said having this letter in our possession, we will now move forward with holding a public meeting. He said the meeting has been set for July 30, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. at the Nye Fire Hall. The county will notify residents by email and social media of the public meeting. This is an opportunity to give our affected residents an overview what has taken place thus far with engineering efforts.

2015 Fire Season: Each week during the fire season the Commissioners will discuss the current status of fire conditions and/or fire restrictions within the county. Action will be taken if conditions warrant. Carol Arkell reported the local fire chiefs do not feel stage restrictions should be implemented at this time due to low humidity and lower temperatures.

Absarokee RSID 5&7

Sewer District: Commissioner Dell read a draft *Resolution of Intent* to increase sewer rates for properties within the Absarokee Sewer 5&7 District. He said the last increase in rates occurred in 2003. The purpose of this increase is to improve the financial condition of the sewer district which we would then be able to apply for grants and/or low interest loans for future replacement of infrastructure, he said. Commissioner Dell explained the rates would increase by 31.2 percent per year over the next three years. A public hearing is scheduled for 6:30 pm, on August 13, 2015, at the Cobblestone School Community Center in Absarokee. Commissioner Dell said the Absarokee RSID 5 & 7 is consulting with Great West Engineering and he plans to meet in Helena with the engineers and the MT DEQ on this project.

Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to adopt **Resolution 2015-21A**, with the intent of increasing the sewer rates for the Absarokee RSID 5 & 7. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Discussion - The current base rate of \$17.05 per month for residential would increase to \$32.76 after a period of three years, Commissioner Dell said. Commissioner Davey said the county has tried to be frugal and keep the sewer rates affordable, but the district is falling behind in funding for maintenance and operation, but now it is time to increase these rates, she said. .

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

Elected Official Salaries: Commissioner Davey read a letter from Joe Morse, Finance Specialist, outlining the recommendation of the Compensation Board to set the elected officials salaries for FY 15-16. The compensation board has recommended a five (5) percent increase to the prior year base salary. Commissioner Davey said the Compensation Board met twice and part of the discussion was that Stillwater County is behind in salaries for the elected officials in comparison to our neighboring counties. She said last year a 5 percent increase was approved and the Compensation Board is again recommending the same increase of 5 percent to the base salary as motioned by Sheriff Brophy and seconded by Jerry Friend, Treasurer. Commissioner Davey read Resolution 2015-22 to those present.

Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to adopt **Resolution 2015-22** setting the salaries for the elected officials for FY 2015-2016. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

Rapelje Water/Sewer District: The Commission received notification from Larry Gee that on July 14, 2015, the Rapelje Water/Sewer District appointed Todd Marsh to the board for a 2-year term, expiring November 2017.

Planning Department: Commissioner Davey said she spoke to the County Attorney regarding the CTA six-month proposal for continued professional planning services for Stillwater County. The County Attorney would like to review the proposal and draft an agreement prior to Commissioner approval. Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to table the proposal until further review by the County Attorney. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

Solid Waste Board: The Commission received a request and recommendation from the Solid Waste Board to revise hours of operation at the Molt and Reed Point collection sites as follows: Solid Waste Site Collection Hours - 1). remove Tuesday's schedule from the Molt site; 2). add Saturday morning hours to the Reed Point Schedule and remove the Sunday schedule.

Commissioner Davey said a poll was taken by the site attendant in Molt and there was no dissent. Commissioner Davey said a petition was signed by Reed Point residents wanting the change in days from Sunday to Saturday. Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to revise the hours of operation at the Reed Point and Molt Collection Sites as recommended by the Solid Waste Board. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

CTEP Project: Marissa Hauge, Economic Development Coordinator, submitted a Bid Award recommendation for the construction of the CTEP Pike Avenue Walking Path Project in Columbus. In her request she stated at the CTEP Bid Opening on Thursday, July 2, 2015 at 2:00 pm, the lowest responsible bidder was Winkler Excavating, Inc at \$223,505.00. Based on the bids received, Interstate Engineering recommends the project is awarded to Winkler Excavating, Inc. The bids came in much higher than what was originally anticipated. The shortage of CTEP funds to complete the project is \$30,234. Total funds available for the Pike Avenue CTEP Path are \$167,334.03. The Town of Columbus, as the sponsor, has committed \$25,936.97, which brings the Project total to \$193,271.00. Marissa Hauge said the Town Council took action to approve the usage of additional funds totaling \$30,234 at their regularly scheduled meeting on July 20, 2015.

Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the recommendation and award the bid to Winkler Excavating, Inc. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

Area II Agency on Aging: Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to approve the Match Support for FY 2016 in the amount of \$12,240. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Discussion - Commissioner Dell said that federal funding of \$11,808 is a decrease from FY 2016 which is difficult for the Area II Agency to remain in operation. Because of this, they are asking the counties to continue matching at the 2015 level. Commissioner Dell said it is well worth the services provided by the Area II Agency. Vote - Commissioner Shupak called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources: Resignation - Angela Georgeson, Victim Witness Program Assistant, effective July 31, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned: Hearing no further business, Commissioner Shupak adjourned the meeting at 9:36 AM