

STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes were approved and are on file with the Clerk and Recorder (MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b)).

REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 18, 2015

Present: Commissioners Dennis Shupak, Chair; Maureen Davey and Gerald W. Dell, Members; Lori Dobitz, Administrative Assistant; Joe Morse, Finance Specialist; Carol Arkell, DES/Fire Warden; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Karl Gaustad; Traute Parrie, District Ranger; 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 July 21, 2015 as presented. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

Stillwater River Road: Rockslide update - Commissioner Dell said as of Thursday, August 13, 2015, the Commission received a letter from GeoStabilization International (GSI) with their new proposed solution to addressing the rockslide. Dell said the price tag has substantially increased. He said due to proprietary information within the letter, we cannot publicly divulge the cost, because if and when we do the project, it will be a bid process. Dell said the county attorney is in the process of developing a letter or information pamphlet to go to all persons in the area of the rockslide. Commissioner Dell said the county is in contact with various state and federal agencies regarding funding. Carol Arkell, DES Coordinator said she is in contact with the State DES whom are aware of the situation. She said they have been having in-house discussions that have included the Governors Office and the National Guard. Commissioner Davey said between the Commission, County Attorney Office, DES, Road and Bridge Department, and Finance Office, we are taking this very serious and we are working on it everyday.

Add On Items: Custer Gallatin National Forrest - Beartooth District Ranger, Traute Parrie, joined the meeting. Commissioner Dell introduced her and announced that she will be retiring from the Custer Gallatin National Forest on August 28, 2015. The Commission thanked her for her service and working with Stillwater County over the past nine years. Jeff Gildehaus has been appointed interim acting Ranger for the Beartooth District.

2015 Fire Season: Each week during the fire season the liaisons will discuss the current status of fire conditions and/or fire restrictions within the county. Action will be taken if conditions warrant.

Carol Arkell, Fire Warden, reported on August 16, 2015, Governor Bullock declared a statewide fire emergency. She said we are at Level 5 which means our resources are being utilized elsewhere in the state, she said. Following the Billings Area Fire Group weekly conference call, it is her recommendation that the burn permit system remain shutdown over the next few days.

Planning:

a. Airport Board request to form an Airport Authority - The Commission received a letter dated August 10, 2015, from Mark O'Bryant, Chairman of the City-County Airport Board. In the letter he stated their Board voted to recommend the county review a draft resolution to form a Joint City-County Airport Authority. Commissioner Davey said she was liaison to the airport board for approximately ten years and the topic has been brought in the last couple of years. She said she is paralleling the process to the Park District formation in the Absarokee area. She stated she is unfamiliar with the statutes on forming an airport authority, but is hoping the County Attorney can give the commission some advice on the issue.

Joe Morse, Finance Specialist, stated the airport became a joint-airport in the late 1990's when the Town of Columbus and Stillwater County pulled their funding together to obtain grant funding and loans to improve the airport. He also explained the role the county besides funding projects. He said the county Planning Office supplies the administrative functions for the airport board by setting up the agendas, prepare meeting minutes and letters, receives and sends all mailings for the airport board. The Finance Office calculates all the hangar rentals, process the airport revenues and payables. The County also provides funding on a yearly basis, and on occasion if additional funds are needed, the county finds resources to help the airport function. The Town of Columbus prepares the hangar lease contract which are approved by both governing bodies. The Town of Columbus sends out the bills for the lease, the County receives and processes the payments, he said, which raises the county to a special liability audit level on occasion, that we have not charged back to the airport. Commissioner Davey added the amount of paperwork processed through the Planning, Finance, and Commissioners Offices, for these airport federal grants takes a lot of time. Morse said in recent years the county has obtained funding for the animal control fence, purchased a new snow plow, a building to house the snowplow, completed a couple of taxi-way projects, all that were obtained through federal grants, passed through and administered by the county. The Airport Master Plan document is updated by the county every few years and is required in order to obtain federal funding. He said there is a large amount of projects and money that comes through the county for the airport.

Most of the federal funding is a 90/10 percent split with each the county and the town providing a 5% share. Commissioner Davey said it has run very efficiently, although some questions regarding the Airport Manager have been raised, ie. paying the manager and who would supervise him, the town or the county. She believes this is what lead them to wanting the creation an Airport Authority. It is her understanding that an Airport Authority (if created) would assume those responsibilities. Joe Morse said they would become a separate governmental entity.

Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to submit the request, resolution, and paper work for the airport authority to the County Attorney for review and legal opinion. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Airport Improvement Project - FAA Grant Agreement AIP #3-30-0017-012-2015 for the rehabilitation of the taxi-way, apron, and runway project. Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to conditionally approve the grant application with the action of the City Council from last evening's meeting. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Signage Regulation - Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to adopt **Resolution 2015 - 30**, a Resolution **rescinding** and nullifying Resolution 2008-44 (scenic corridor signage regulation), on the recommendation of the County Planning Board. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously. This Resolution is filed in the Clerk and Recorders Office under Document No. 363181.

Absarokee RSID 5-7 District: Commissioner Dell read proposed Resolution 2015-31, a resolution for the purpose of assessing operation and maintenance costs and sewer connection charges for Absarokee Sewer RSID 5 & 7 amending Resolution 2003-33. Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2015-31. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**.

Discussion - Commissioner Davey stated that the Commissioners are the board of the RSID 5&7. The last fee increase was in 2003, and DEQ is telling us we need to increase the fees to become eligible for grants. She said this is something we have to do to keep the sewer system in compliance and address the violations. Commissioner Dell stated he and the engineers attended a meeting in Helena with eight representatives of DEQ. He said the our current permit is approaching expiration next January and new unstated guidelines are being implemented in the permit process. Great West Engineering is in the process of preparing a preliminary engineering report which we anticipate will comply with the new unstated guidelines. Commissioner Dell stated DEQ is a very tough organization to work with.

Vote - Commissioner Shupak called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously. Resolution 2015-31 is filed with the Clerk & Recorder's Office under Document No. 363182.

Consent Agenda:

1. Commissioners - Community Crisis Center Memorandum of Understanding for support of the program/facility located in Yellowstone County.
2. Road & Bridge -
 - a. Resolution 2015-29, executing the approved financing changes for trade-in motor graders. This Resolution is filed with the Clerk & Recorder's Office under Document No. 363136.
 - b. Purchase request for a roadside mower in the amount of \$15,670.

File Items:

1. Commissioners -
 - a. BLM - Northwestern Energy Columbus-Rapelje- Chrome Junction 100k Transmission Line Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)- comment period notification.
 - b. Human Resources - Resignation - April Svenson, Communication Officer, effective August 1, 2015.

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

Meeting Adjourned: Hearing no further business, Commissioner Shupak adjourned the meeting at 9:33AM