

## STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

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

### REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2015

**Present:** Commissioners Dennis Shupak, Chair; Maureen Davey and Gerald W. Dell, Members; Lori Dobitz, Administrative Assistant. Others Present: Stan Jonutis, MDT; Coralee Hicks; Shirlee Keffer, Stillwater Republican Women; Carol Arkell, Fire Warden/DES Coordinator; and Ric 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.

Shirlee Keffer said on behalf of the Stillwater Republican Women she congratulated Commissioner Maureen Davey with her newly elected position as Montana Association of Counties President and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Ms. Keffer told Commissioner Davey the leadership of Stillwater County speaks volumes from your peers in taking on that leadership role. Shirlee said it was her understanding that since Maureen Davey is from Stillwater County that MACo will provide a scholarship to our county. Commissioner Davey said that two (2) scholarships will be available to our county. Ms. Keffer said she would also like to invite the Commission to attend a politics and egg breakfast - Montana Style- called Hot off the Griddle. She said two have been scheduled and will be held November 7, 2015, and December 5, 2015, at the 307 Bar and Grill, hosted by the Stillwater Republican Women. These events will feature guest speakers.

Commissioner Dell made it publically known that his six-year term will expire on December 31, 2016, and he will not be a candidate for re-election. He said he represents Commissioner District 2 and the public needs to know that the first day for filing for Commissioner is January 14, 2016.

**Minutes Approval:** Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2015, as corrected. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed

**Special Issues** Stillwater River Road - Rockslide update - Commissioner Dell said the Request for Proposals are due no later than 5:00 pm today in the Finance Office.

## Regular Business:

1. Park City Fire District - Request for reimbursement for fuel and tire repair while providing mutual aid on the Arrowhead Fire. Commissioner Dell read a letter dated October 12, 2015, from the Park City Rural Fire District Trustees. They submitted fuel invoices and tire replacements totaling \$559.17 and have requested reimbursement under the fuel reimbursement program. Carol Arkell, Fire Warden, said the county has mutual aid agreements in place with all Fire Departments and Districts in Stillwater County. Park City Fire was called as a mutual aid on the Arrowhead Fire to assist with suppression. She said mutual aid is the first operational period of the incident which can be 8-12 hours. She explained the Fuel Budget is for extraordinary costs that occur if you are out on a long call. This program was set up after the Derby Fire several years ago because it was extraordinary costs incurred by the departments assisting on the fire which put a hardship on the departments. At this point, she said, it is truly mutual aid. Commissioner Davey asked how long the fire lasted. Arkell said it was wrapped up and contained on day one and mopped up on the second day. Carol Arkell relayed that Rich Cowger, Columbus Fire Chief, in the past has always said, *if the fire is in my district, please fill up at the fuel station and Columbus Fire will pick up those costs*. Commissioner Davey said she was here for the 10-12 day Derby Fire and our county-wide departments and districts put in a lot of time suppressing that fire. That is why we set up this fueling program to help those departments and districts. If the request from Park City qualifies, then alright, if it doesn't, then we need to stay with the intent of the resolution, Commissioner Davey said.

2. MDT - Speed Limit Recommendations for S-421 (aka Joliet Road) Columbus-East, requesting acceptance or rejection. Stan Jonutis, MDT, explained the county requested a speed limit study (March 2015) to be conducted on S-421 - Joliet Road, Columbus -East. He said Montana Department of Transportation, in September, 2015, completed a speed zone study and further explained the process of calculating speed using the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile. He said the existing speed limit configuration was established through two previous engineering studies in 2001 and 2003 with the 60 mph speed zone being the primary speed limit extending out to milepost 10.7 and transitional 50 mph-40 mph zones leading up to the intersection with MT 78. He said the study identified two (2) crash clusters, the first located between milepost 3.6 and milepost 3.8 consisting of five crashes all involving northbound motorists failing to negotiate a curve. The second cluster is located between milepost 5.7 and milepost 5.8. It too, involved north bound motorists and consisted of seven crashes. He said both cluster's were identified for safety improvements in the 2015 Hazzard Safety Program, which is in addition to the Billings District Wide Curve Signing Project. Stan Jonutis said if it looks like the limit is working pretty well, but there are some other problems, we try to address those other problems separately, with chevrons. He said the two sharp 90 degrees curves will definitely get chevrons Jonutis said. Commissioner Davey said the county has asked MDT to look at two areas of speed limits, one being the Rapelje Road (which has been adjusted); and the Joliet Road. She said since the last study in 2003, and the reconstruction of 421, the traffic has increased tremendously.

Commissioner Davey **MOVED** to accept the recommendation for the speed zone for S-421, but speak to the Transportation Committee for modifications. Commissioner Dell **SECONDED**.

**Discussion** - Commissioner Dell stated the report stated the average daily traffic volume is 790 on S-421, and said that is a large amount of traffic especially when 6-miles of it is a very narrow road. Commissioner Davey asked about compression brakes on semi-trucks. Jonutis said the legislature, probably with a lot of input from the trucking industry, came back and said if you have any commercial truck has a legal compression brake muffler, you can use it anytime, anywhere.

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

### **Consent Agenda**

1. DES - Emergency Management Performance Grant Award/Agreement for 2015-2016. The amount approved is \$51,525 and the grant is a 50% Federal Match.

2. Commissioners - EBMS - Self-funded group health plans Transitional Reinsurance Fee to cover the Federally Facilitated Exchange's administrative costs.

Commissioner Dell **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Davey **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Hearing no further business, Commissioner Shupak adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.