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Ravalli County Commissioners

Dear County Commissioners,

Impact Fees:

Why are you adopting an ordinance before you have all the questions answered?

Have you looked into the state code about impact fees? Did you know that Kalispell did the same thing and it was so confusing and frustrating that after many hours they threw their hands up and gave up until the legislature meets again in 2009?

Did you know that in Belgrade once an impact fee, similar to the Corvallis and Florence school board study, there has been only 1 building permit issued in 18 months?

Did you know that the State legislature is looking into changing the state code in the 2009 session?

Impact fees can only be used for capital improvements in that particular area that they are collected in. Do you have a system in place to collect these fees and disperse accordingly?

Will we always be divided into school districts? With the current economy could the school districts look into consolidating?

Unless Ravalli County is prepared to collect impact fees currently there is no need to adopt an ordinance restating what the state already has in place.

It is very clear to me that our current county commissioners have not done their research into impact fees, because they have misspoke numerous times about the process. Impact fees can not be used countywide, nor should they be a means to curb profit in the development industry. These are both assumptions quoted in the Ravalli Republic by our county commissioners.

I urge you to slow this process down and vote no to the second reading on December 4th until the above questions can be answered.

Samantha McQuay
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