

Harold Blattie

From: McCone County Commissioners Office [mcconeco@midrivers.com]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 6:14 PM
To: Harold Blattie
Cc: Janet Wolff; Connie Eissinger; jmoos@midrivers.com
Subject: SB 283-Changing County Boundaries

Harold,
This is the situation with McCone County and Garfield County.

The Rock Creek Cabin area at Fort Peck is on the North Fork of Rock Creek. About 7 miles is in McCone County and then the road goes into Garfield County, where the majority of the cabins are located. This part of Garfield County is separated from the rest of Garfield County by water. To get to it, their road department has to road their maintainers about 31 miles up Hwy 24 and then 7 miles on the North Fork of Rock Creek in McCone County. McCone County has provided law enforcement, emergency services, and road maintenance for many years without reimbursement and little reciprocal maintenance on a McCone County road.

We had a hand-shake agreement with Garfield County in that we maintained the portion of the North Fork of Rock Creek to the cabin area that lies withiin Garfield County and they were to maintain a road that went south from Flowing Well, on the county line.

Several years ago, our road leadman made us aware that Garfield County wasn't keeping up their end of the agreement, so we decided to put the agreement in writing so all parties knew what was expected. For the three or four years that the written agreement was in place, Garfield County did not maintain their obligation to McCone County until our road department got tired of waiting for them to do so and complained to us, whereupon, we complained to Garfield County. Usually, the spring grading and pulling of the shoulders wasn't accomplished until well into June.

The fall of 2009, we decided to end the agreement and sent a letter of termination. Cabin owners have been complaining about the service they have received from Garfield during the summer of 2010. I believe they snow plowed a couple of times during that winter, and maintained the cabin area once or twice, but did not mow the roads in the fall. Garfield County wants to have us take the cabin area back, and have offered the \$1800 that they say they collect on that portion of Garfield County. We don't agree that we could satisfy the cabin owners with only the amount of service that \$1800 would provide.

We're not too sure about moving the county boundary, but we're also not too keen on any agreement providing what the cabin owners regard as maintenance, given the limited funds. We don't believe it to be fair to our taxpayers.

If you have any questions, let me know.

Connie

Harold Blattie

From: Marty Malone [mmalone@parkcounty.org]
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 1:37 PM
To: jessmann@mt.gov
Cc: Harold Blattie
Subject: Senate Bill 283

Senator Essmann:

I have read the Senate Bill 283. It clearly provides a method for county boundary change and allows the citizens of both counties to choose.

I appreciate your effort in clarifying the code.

Marty Malone
Park County Commissioner
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