

Glenda Wiles

From: Mac McQuaid [montanamac@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 5:10 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Sign Ordinance

Ravalli County Commissioners

Subject: Private signs in Ravalli County

Lets review the roll of government. The roll of government is to protect the God given rights of the individual. Nothing more and nothing less. The governing body has limited authority to be involved in the lives of the governed. The primary function of government is to protect the individual citizen from over zealous control of the state acting under color of law. Each of you have sworn to "support and defend" the Constitution of the United States and that of the State of Montana.

You are in the process of possibly changing the Sign Ordinance determining rules and penalties for violation of the "sign ordinance". Let me ask you a question ... how would the enactment of any "sign ordinance" protect the rights of the individual that you are sworn to uphold?

Let me give an example ... imagine there are two property owners side by side on highway 93 ... Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones. Mr. Smith feels that his business would benefit from more advertising and puts up a sign. Mr. Jones does not like the new sign and demands that Mr. Smith take it down. Is this disagreement between two private individuals something the government (County Commissioners) should be involved in? No. This is a civil matter and Mr. Smith has the right to sue Mr. Jones in a civil court to settle the matter if he feels that he has been damaged. The governing body has nothing to do with it.

Think about it ... where does the Constitution you have sworn to use as your road map in governing the people give you power to take the rights from one citizen for the benefit of another? It does not.

The County Commissioners should not be involved in determining how big a sign should or should not be. The question is ... should there be a sign ordinance in the first place? If you intend to honor your oath of office the answer is obvious ... you do not have the obligation or authority to pass an ordinance that violates the rights of one individual to satisfy the complaints of another. If there are currently any restrictions regarding private individuals and their choice to or not to erect a sign ... these regulations should be eliminated.

I urge you all to abandon this nonsense and get on to the task of solving bigger problems here in the county such as making sure we are getting what we are paying for in the county road budget.

Thanks in advance for honoring your Oath of Office

Mac McQuaid
Corvallis

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"In the beginning of a change the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot." -- Mark Twain

"While the timid patriot fears men those with courage trust God" - Mac