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OCT 17 2012

Ravalli County Commissioners

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cc: eb Klavys & Marie Heston

Board of Directors
Billie Springer Memorial Park, Inc.
1415 Springer Rd.
Sula, MT 59871
October 17, 2012

Mr. Bill Fulbright
Ravalli County Attorney
205 Bedford St
Suite C
Hamilton, MT 59840

Mr. Jeff Borrows
Mr. Greg Chilcott
Ms. Suzy Foss
Mr. J.R. Iman
Mr. Ron Stolz
Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street
Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Ravalli County Attorney and Commissioners:

I write on behalf of Billie Springer Memorial Park Board of Directors and the 161 property owners and lessees in this 160-acre veterans' community located on East Fork Rd. in the Sula Rural Fire District (SRFD). We are concerned about nonfeasance in the current administration of SRFD, formed under the authority of Ravalli County (Section 7-33-2202, MCA).

According to both Ravalli County and Montana Local Government Services Bureau (MLGSB) records, SRFD receives about \$53,000 in local tax revenue each year, yet has not filed a single required annual audit report with MLGSB since at least as far back as 2005. Bureau records also indicate that SRFD has been sent four letters a year requesting audit compliance and offering free assistance to complete the audits -- with no response for the past seven years. We have also been told that the SRFD board of trustees, which is accountable for administration of the district under MCA, has not met for two years, nor have volunteers received training during this period.

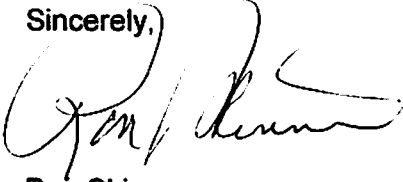
We have serious concerns about this severe lack of compliance and accountability:

- This summer's 340,000-acre Mustang Complex Fire and "very high" fire danger throughout the Bitterroot National Forest required immediate fire preparedness from the SRFD to protect lives and property. Billie Springer Memorial Park and other nearby residential communities are designated "high priority" for fire protection due to the number of people and structures there. Current circumstances afford area citizens no assurance that SRFD offers any level of fire preparedness.
- Ravalli county taxpayers have no accountability for more than \$370,000 distributed to SRFD for fire protection over the past seven years. Where has that taxpayer money gone?
- SRFD failure to comply with required audits is a matter of public record that could lead to higher ISO ratings and an increase in fire protection premiums for property owners throughout the Sula community.

Given SRFD's untenable record of audit non-compliance, failure to hold public trustee meetings and lack of accountability for \$370,000 in county taxes paid for fire protection, we request that you give our concerns your immediate attention – and that you exercise your authority under Section 7-33-2202, MCA to form an accountable SRFD.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Skinner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Ron Skinner
Board Chair
Billie Springer Memorial Park, Inc.