

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Jeff Burrows, Chairperson  
Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 S 4th St STE A,  
Hamilton, MT 59840

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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Chairman Burrows:

Late last week I called your administrative assistant in an effort to schedule a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss some issues infringing on my property rights. I did speak with Chris Taggart about such a conference on Monday morning. She informed me she would pass along my concerns. She further said I should be expecting a call from you to arrange a conference on my concerns.

It is now Thursday, 17 June, 2021, late in the day. I have not had a phone call from you. I am taking the initiative to send you this letter setting forth some of my concerns in writing before seeking further counsel.

1. The Ravalli County Commissioners purchased the property adjacent to the property where I now reside from my late wife and me in 2005. Prior to the purchase of the property by the Ravalli County Commissioners to house the Youth Court/Probation Office we had leased the building to the county for approximately 5 years. During that time we I was responsible for the maintenance and care of the grounds. This included keeping the boulevard, shrubbery, and ornamental plantings as weed free as practical. Following the purchase of the building by Ravalli County, this was accomplished through the utilization of community service work by adolescents adjudicated through the Youth Court for a number of years (10 to 12), More recently the Ravalli County Commissioners granted permission and or leased a portion of the property to the Hamilton Farmers Market Cooperative (HFMC). Two to three years ago the the HFMC Board made a decision to release the former manager and hire a new one. Since that time the area immediately adjacent to my property has become a source of noxious weeds and an eyesore. Last summer I believed I had an agreement with the current manager and her board president to address these conditions. They have defaulted. It is my understanding limitations imposed by the COVID restrictions have curtailed community service contributions to the upkeep of the grounds surrounding the Youth Court Building at 220 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. We engaged the services of Steve Powell to do a survey to divide the property from other parcels we own(ed) 212 S 3<sup>rd</sup> and 212 Bedford (I do not recall the date precisely, you can check it with the Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer if it is material). We were not interested in having a large yard to take care of since we planned to live up the West Fork. The Commissioners at the time expressed interest in having additional space—two items I recall were the possibility of a pocket park where county employees could eat or meet outside weather permitting and/or a site for a storage building for records. What is material here is that when we owned the property I did at least bi annual maintenance on the three spruce trees that are on county property immediately adjacent to my house at 212 Bedford. In the 15+ years Ravalli County has owned the building, I cannot recall any maintenance being performed. Because one of the trees has begun to lean over the property line and pose a threat to my residence, I have consulted with an arborist. He

informed me it was his judgement the tree needed to be removed because it is not a candidate for topping because of the law of thirds. Because I am only just now becoming settled after the residence was restored following the fire, I am quite concerned about potentially going through another catastrophe. Not to mention the annual maintenance I am required to do or have done because of the shedding of cones, needles, dead limbs, originating from the county's property.

So there you have it. Putting it down in writing is a necessary step in seeking further advice about what remedies I may have. If you still care to meet with me in person, call me up. If not, I would appreciate your response to me about my concerns in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

Jim Parker  
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Hamilton, MT 59840  
406-360-1969