

Chris Taggart

From: Dick & Colleen Hoffman <montana@hoffman.ph>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 5:08 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Cc: Rob Livesay; Shannon Bivens; Jacob Cummings
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Open lands bond program

Commissioners,

It appears that this one falls back to you folks. If you are the ones that thought this is a great deal for the valley, then you can find a way to make this right for us voters who didn't vote for it. We are really getting tired of being taxed for just any ole thing and its starting to get a little old. I want to know what you people are going to do to make this right?

I personally think that those that voted for it should pay the FULL amount if they think it's really needed and there should be a way to make those who didn't vote for it to be exempt from paying, even if you guys need to sit down and look at each ballot and make a entry to the county tax records to reflect how everyone voted. What do you think?

Really beginning to feel the injustice of our tax laws and how they get implemented.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffman, Florence, MT

On 12/16/2022 9:54 AM, Jacob Cummings wrote:

Dear Mr. Hoffman,

Thanks for your consideration to explain your concerns with our office.

You have correctly forwarded this information onto your elected officials, the Board of County Commissioners.

In regards to the validity of you as a property owner stating you would like to request a reduction in your taxes, this is something our office has no control over.

Contact your Commissioners for your concern, as within this email, they are receiving this correspondence.

The Montana Department of Revenue compiles and assesses property which includes legal encumbrances such as a tax over your property.

I will refer you to your commissioners to provide guidance if there is a process to protest the Bond Program which was put to a vote through a bond initiative placed on the ballot which did pass in November of this year.

In reference, I legally cannot tell you not paying taxes on your property would resolve this issue. There are legal ramifications to you not paying taxes (seek guidance form MT Dept. of Revenue) such as a lien. I am not a lawyer and do not provide advice of how or why you believe you do not owe taxes because of an initiative that legally passed through this County.

Your information has been provided to your commissioners and I hope you have a blessed weekend. Thanks for your inquiry!

Jacob Cummings, MSURP

County Planner II

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From: Dick & Colleen Hoffman <montana@hoffman.ph>

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:31 PM

To: Jacob Cummings <[jcummings@rc.mt.gov](mailto:jcumplings@rc.mt.gov)>

Cc: Ravalli County Commissioners Office <commissioners@rc.mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Open lands bond program

Mr. Cummings;

Let me start off by saying I did not vote yes on the bond issue in November. After reviewing the county web site I decided that it would not be in my best interest to pay taxes for that bond. The main reason for me voting the way I did is because why would I give my money to folks that won't even let me access the property that are entering the Program. According to what I see so far on the stats, that 88% of the funds spent so far have been handed over to private owners without the public being able to access their property. I don't know what these private owners are doing with the funds they have excepted from the program. I do know one thing for sure, when I needed to install new roofs on my house and shed this last summer I didn't see the county or any of those private owners who are in the program rush in to help me pay for some or any of those expenses. See where I'm going here.

So, when the tax statement comes for next year, expect to see us to discount 88% of taxes due from this bond total. We will only be paying for 12% of the bond tax charge for participants of property that do let us access. Let me know if my figures are wrong so I can adjust my payment. If need be you came shift the 88% of the taxes due for us to someone who voted for the bond.

Sincerely;

Dick Hoffman

5365 Maverick Way
Florence, Mt 59833

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