

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** Tom <tc@mt.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 2, 2014 7:38 AM  
**To:** Glenda Wiles  
**Subject:** Re: Ravalli County Airport

Hi Glenda,

I has written a support letter for the Airport this week. Is there a way to eliminate the phone number if it goes public? I'd appreciate it.

Thank you.

Tom Cordingley

> On Jul 1, 2014, at 9:03 AM, Glenda Wiles <gwiles@rc.mt.gov> wrote:

>

> Thank you for your email. It will be placed in general and commissioners correspondence.

>

> Glenda Wiles

> Ravalli County Commissioners Office

> Administrative Assistant

> 406-375-6500

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Tom [mailto:tc@mt.net]

> Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 6:30 PM

> To: dan@rpa-hln.com

> Cc: Glenda Wiles; drh29@bitterroot.com

> Subject: Ravalli County Airport

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> I had the pleasure of flying into Hamilton within the last few weeks. It has been several years since my last visit with some out-of-staters. This time it was for a Montana Arts Council meeting in Hamilton.

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> As I came in from Helena the radio was very quiet with the exception of a private pilot doing maneuvers out of Stevensville. I must admit I expected a more polished airport for the value of Hamilton. I even questioned if I had the right airport. Odds were on my side so give it a shot.

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> Within a minute of clearing the runway, I was followed by a vintage taildragger, a large Cessna Jet, a second private aircraft and a second private jet...surprisingly to me, all able to land on a narrow 4200 foot runway which, incidentally, is too close to the aircraft parking. It was a pretty impressive 15 minutes with the amount, size and quality of the traffic. The FBO people at Choice Aviation handled it all very professionally. It didn't seem anything new to them.

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> All this chatter leads up to the need to rebuild an important part of Hamilton. As I understand it, at least one of the jets carried a couple to town to purchase a log cabin. The builders were pretty excited. We are talking money. Big money. And I'm guessing these folks will be needing that airport when they travel here again.

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> Airports are the first impression of a city for travelers arriving by air. Hamilton must have an airport to be proud of if those aircraft are any indication.

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> Living in Helena, I know there is no question for the need of fire protection in western Montana. We see tankers leaving here with full loads of suppressant using much of the runway built for commercial traffic. If it comes to needing help, people of Hamilton are going to need a better strip for these planes whether it be a smaller load or a crew with equipment. Medical emergencies can't be overlooked either.

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> Pilots believe that safety is a longer runway both coming and going, for those in the air and on the ground. Hamilton needs that attention from our perspective.

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> The airport obviously needs help. I'd like to see it done for the people of Hamilton.

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> Tom Cordingley

> Helena

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