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Nathan G. Wagner
Del M. Post
Joseph R. Casillas
George H. Corn
Kyle C. Ryan
Brian M. Lebsock
Jason A. Williams

October 23, 2015

Ronald B. MacDonald [1946-2002]

- Also admitted in Massachusetts
Also admitted in North Dakota
Also admitted in Arizona
Also admitted in Washington
Also admitted in Idaho

Ravalli County Commissioners

Attn: Ray Hawk, Greg Chilcott, JR Iman, Jeff Burrows, Doug Schallenberger
215 S. 4th St.
Hamilton, MT 59840

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2015

Re: My clients: Mildenbergers
Airport Expansion

Ravalli County Commissioners

Five empty rectangular boxes for signatures

Dear Commissioners:

Our office represents the Mildenberger family ("Mildenbergers"). As you know, the Mildenbergers own property that lies directly North of the existing airport. We are also aware of Ravalli County's desire to expand the airport to the North, into the Mildenberger Property. Mildenbergers have asked me to contact you and share with you their thoughts regarding the expansion.

Initially, I have been asked to address two issues. First, the present plans that have been prepared for the expansion of the airport have been reviewed by my clients. They have concluded that the design detrimentally impacts their property and the historic use of the Ranch. They have no interest in transferring the property necessary for the expansion, as is being discussed and as presently designed. Secondly, Mildenbergers have heard rumors that they are attempting to entice the county to take the property through an eminent domain process. This statement is simply not true. There is no public need to take the property and, as discussed below, there is a feasible alternative that will permit the airport expansion without detrimentally impacting the Mildenbergers. In fact, if eminent domain proceedings are initiated it is the Mildenbergers expectation to contest such action.

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Despite the foregoing, Mildenbergers are willing to consider an airport expansion that involves their property under certain conditions. They believe that if the airport is moved 80' to 100' to the East, the runway could be expanded 200' to 300' to the North and such expansion would result in a safe airport that serves Ravalli County's needs, while minimizing the impact on Mildenberger's property. While such a decision for Ravalli County and Mildenbergers will involve significant thought and discussion, as well as discussion relating to the price to be paid for the acreage to be transferred, my clients want to be clear that it is their goal to cooperate with Ravalli County in expanding the airport. While they need to make certain that there is no detrimental impact on their Ranch such a determination can only be made after the initial discussions and after preliminary drawings are made. It seems to Mildenbergers, as well as myself, that a meeting between county representatives (possible the Board itself) and Mildenbergers would be beneficial to explain this alternative proposal.

It is Mildenbergers' desire to work with Ravalli County in accomplishing its goals. By working collectively on an expansion acceptable to the Mildenbergers and Ravalli County the end result will be an airport that is expanded to a size that is more suitable for larger planes and, which will result in a safer airport environment.

Please contact me if you are interested in meeting to discuss Mildenbergers' goals. Thank you for considering my clients' thoughts.

Sincerely,

DATSOPOULOS, MacDONALD & LIND, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David B. Cotner', written over a horizontal line.

David B. Cotner

DBC/ah