

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY
STILLWATER COUNTY, MONTANA

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September 25, 2017

Stillwater County Commissioners
P.O. Box 970
Columbus, MT 59019

Re: FOIA Requests

Dear Commissioners:

Pursuant to our meeting today, we are renewing our request to have the twenty-two (22) boxes of paid invoices and bid documents returned to the Office of the Stillwater County Attorney. As we explained, this allows our office to control the dissemination of the requested information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and to create an electronic record of all information shared.

The information requested is all public record. We deal with discovery and dissemination of documents daily through my office and we are set up with the space, equipment and staff to handle such dissemination efficiently and quickly. We have to deal with the recent FOIA request from Bruce Fain of Crowley Fleck Law Offices and as the Chief Legal Officer, I need to ensure the timely and efficient dissemination of all the requested information.

As we discussed earlier today, timely dissemination is required or, the County exposes itself to a civil law suit and possible award of attorney fees. I had already set up the method of dissemination and was in middle of said dissemination when the twenty-two boxes were retrieved from my office this morning. This poses legal issues and thwarts my ability to protect the taxpayers of Stillwater County from a possible civil law suit which could come from a perceived lack of attention to the FOIA request.

Please return the twenty-two boxes my office no later than noon, Tuesday, September 26, 2017. If this request is not honored, I will be forced to seek legal remedies through Court Order to protect the Stillwater County taxpayer.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Rohde