



BIG SKY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

October 24, 2018

Madison County Commissioners
P.O. Box 278
Virginia City, MT 59755

Delivered via email
madco@madisoncountymt.gov

Dear Madison County Commissioners:

Nearly 60%, or 1,339 of the 2,400 BSOA members are residents or property owners in Madison County. During our meeting on 04/04/18 at the BSOA and again stated in a January 26, 2018 letter sent to you, the BSOA Board remains very concerned about Big Sky resident's current ability to evacuate in an emergency and the overburdening of roadways, public services and emergency response that continued development in Madison County will bring. A reliable alternative evacuation route is critical for the safety of the Big Sky community. That route is the Jack Creek Road to the West through Moonlight Basin property, which must be improved as well as the 3-mile stretch of county road to the west of the lower Moonlight Basin gate.

At the April 4th meeting, there was agreement by all that Jack Creek Road is conspicuously inadequate for an emergency evacuation, that several steps were to be taken to resolve the issue, including (a) a survey of the 3-mile unimproved stretch to determine the road right of ways and adequacy as a County Standard Roadway. The timeline for the survey was to be completed in May or June, 2018; (b) acknowledgement that a new Feasibility Study was unnecessary, but an enhancement or update of the study was to be completed and (c) an estimate of costs associated with a 3-year plan to resolve the emergency access and exit was also settled upon. Furthermore, all three Madison County Commissioners expressed they wanted something done, understood the need for action and recognized the benefit it would have for their Big Sky constituents. However, after checking in with Jim Hart at the end of August, it was noted that nothing has been done to further resolve this safety issue for the Big Sky community, yet major construction projects in Moonlight Basin were recently approved by Madison County Commissioners.

Why the delay for action? The BSOA is aware of the revenue percentage Madison County receives from Big Sky property taxes versus the amount of County expenditures our community receives back in services. Our Board also recognizes the County's obligation to provide sufficient funds to ensure public safety for its citizens, which include credible evacuation plans and procedures, yet the Madison County Commissioners continue to defer on this issue.

Therefore, BSOA Board respectfully requests without further delay, a plan of action from the Madison County Commissioners within 30 days of receipt of letter that also commits the necessary funding to proceed with the above steps that were agreed upon seven months prior.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Walton, Chairman, Board of Directors
Big Sky Owners Association

cc'd to: Madison County Commissioners
Gallatin County Commissioners
Big Sky Fire Dept.
Big Sky Sheriff