

3/4/21

LETTER TO STEVENSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL, 3-4-2021, PUBLIC HEARING

Thank you Steve Gibson for presenting my comments at the first and only public meeting the Stevensville Town Council will hold to approve, approve *with conditions*, or deny the proposed Burnt Fork Estates subdivision east of town. I'd like to title my brief comments, **WAKE UP STEVENSVILLE, A NIGHTMARE IS COMING!**

Thank you town residents and those of you here tonight that live outside of town who will also be impacted by this mega subdivision in so many ways. Right now my biggest concern is the town administration can approve the subdivision with little mitigation and cost to the developer and forward the final bills to town and county taxpayers and forever change a beautiful, historic town into a large bedroom community of Missoula. Yes, more homes are needed for the future but developers must be held accountable for building within reasonable density limits that will not impact a town of a little over 2,000 residents by the 2018 census.

With all legal rules set aside for the subdivision timeline process due to the pandemic, the Stevensville Planning & Zoning Board still held one "continued" meeting via Zoom. Now the Stevensville Town Council is pushing two hearings within five days to make their decision on this huge subdivision with 16 commercial lots! The town council's **second meeting will be via zoom on the town's website** on March 8th, 6:30 pm and we've learned few people understand zoom, know how to participate or call in, how to submit a letter. If anything, the town council should hold their last hearing in public because we know their vote may be to approve this terribly planned subdivision. The Council should not allow a rezoning for the benefit of the commercial portion of the subdivision. They need to face town and county residents in public to justify such a monstrous plan.

With all the water, sewer, significant traffic increases, 220 new family units plus a new business area outside town which makes no sense, the town administration is rushing a process that demands careful consideration. It's obvious the town council and mayor have favored the developers over meaningful public participation. Why? Were the developers promised a quick pathway to approval, were town officials jubilant to add more money to town coffers with little consideration about all the costly fixes that will become a tax burden to current residents? Small town politics are never under a spotlight as they should be. Let us all shine a bright light on this mess.

Thank you.

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