

STUDY COMMISSION

THREE FORKS, MONTANA

STUDY COMMISSION QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

APRIL 1985

MEMBERS

Jon Hesson, Chairman

Jim Aughney

Dave Miller

Sharon Smith

Becky Thrush



STUDY COMMISSION QUESTIONNAIRE - 1984/1985  
 THREE FORKS STUDY COMMISSION  
 THREE FORKS, MONTANA -- APRIL 1985

WARD 3

WARD 2

WARD 1

TOTAL  
 ALL WARDS

HOW MANY REGISTERED VOTERS IN HOUSEHOLD	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
ONE IN HOUSEHOLD	23	9	9
TWO IN HOUSEHOLD	81	18	29
THREE IN HOUSEHOLD	11	2	4
FOUR IN HOUSEHOLD	1	0	0
FIVE IN HOUSEHOLD	0	0	0

HOW LONG PARTICIPANTS LIVED IN T. F.	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
ONE TO FIVE YEARS	20	3	9
FIVE TO TEN YEARS	8	2	3
TEN TO TWENTY YEARS	28	10	7
OVER TWENTY YEARS	65	21	26

DO YOU OWN PROPERTY IN CITY. WHAT TYPE?	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
HOUSE	96	29	35
MOBILE HOME	15	6	3
BUSINESS	6	0	6
OTHER	7	0	7

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE YOU?	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
EMPLOYED	49	11	21
SELF-EMPLOYED	14	2	9
RETIRED	56	21	13
OTHER	4	2	2

NAME THE TWO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM YOUR WARD?	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
BOTH ANSWERED RIGHT	31	9	10
ONE ANSWERED RIGHT	48	13	15
BOTH ANSWERED WRONG	42	11	21
NO ANSWER	3	3	0

TYPE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DESIRED	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
COMMISSION/MANAGER	0	0	0
COMMISSION	0	0	0
MAYOR/COUNCIL	117	31	44
TOWN MEETING	1	0	1
OTHER	7	5	2

HOW ARE YOU INFORMED OF CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS?	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
PAPER	113	29	44
WORD OF MOUTH	31	12	13
AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS	15	5	4
OTHER	3	2	1

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED A CITY COUNCIL MEETING?	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
NEVER	57	21	19
LAST 0 TO 1 YEAR	21	7	8
LAST 1 TO 3 YEARS	38	5	17
NO ANSWER	6	3	3

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TOTAL ALL WARDS WARD 1 WARD 2 WARD 3

DO YOU THINK CITY COUNCIL SHOULD MEET  
IN REGULAR SESSIONS?

BI-MONTHLY  
MONTHLY  
OTHER

22 9 7 6  
90 31 25 34  
9 0 4 5

WHAT IS YOUR EST. OF CURRENT FISCAL YR. EXPENDITURE?

\$50,000 TO \$100,000  
\$100,000 TO \$125,000  
\$125,000 TO \$200,000  
OVER \$200,000  
NO ANSWER

21 6 8 7  
29 9 6 14  
35 11 13 11  
14 7 4 3  
15 0 5 10

HOW DO YOU RATE THE OPERATION OF THE FOLLOWING DEPT.

ADMINISTRATION

POOR  
FAIR  
GOOD  
EXCELLENT

11 1 5 5  
30 8 11 11  
53 23 10 20  
18 8 3 7

AIRPORT

POOR  
FAIR  
GOOD  
EXCELLENT

7 2 1 4  
20 4 8 8  
65 26 15 24  
15 5 3 7

CEMETERY & PARKS

POOR  
FAIR  
GOOD  
EXCELLENT

11 4 3 4  
17 6 2 9  
63 21 22 20  
26 10 4 12

BUILDING AND ZONING

POOR  
FAIR  
GOOD  
EXCELLENT

18 4 3 11  
37 13 11 13  
44 17 12 15  
9 4 1 4

POLICE AND JUSTICE

POOR  
FAIR  
GOOD  
EXCELLENT

14 1 6 7  
47 18 13 16  
34 10 11 13  
14 3 3 8

STREETS AND ALLEYS

POOR  
FAIR  
GOOD  
EXCELLENT

32 10 13 9  
42 18 11 17  
32 10 8 14  
8 3 0 5

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TOTAL ALL WARDS WARD 1 WARD 2 WARD 3

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE 65 MILL LIMITATION?

YES 74 23 24 27  
NO 13 5 4 4

SHOULD LOCAL GOVT BE ALLOWED TO IMPOSE ADD. MILLS

YES 13 6 1 1  
NO 82 27 27 28

WHAT DO YOU FEEL THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVT. IS?

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 40 16 13 11  
VOICE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC 60 17 17 26  
INFLUENCED BY BUSINESSES 3 2 1 0  
OTHER 10 0 2 8

IS THE PRESENT SIX MEMBER COUNCIL AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNING BODY?

YES 97 32 30 35  
NO 6 3 2 1  
MORE 3 1 1 1  
LESS 5 2 1 2

WOULD YOU CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR A POSITION IN CITY GOVERNMENT?

YES 40 14 10 16  
NO 64 22 22 20

IF THE RESEARCH OF THE STUDY COMMISSION INDICATED A MORE EFFECTIVE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE CITY OF THREE FORKS AND PRESENTS IT TO THE PUBLIC WOULD YOU BE?

DEFINITELY NOT INTERESTED 20 9 5 6  
UNDECIDED 43 17 12 14  
DEFINITELY INTERESTED 45 12 13 20  
NO ANSWER 9 0 5 4

QUESTION NO. 19 ASKED FOR COMMENTS SOME ARE LISTED BELOW.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE PARKS TAKE CARE OF THEM. THE CARE AT THE LIBRARY PARK LAST SEASON WAS A DISGRACE. FIRST THEY LET IT BURN UP. THEN WHEN THEY DID DECIDE TO WATER I HAVE SEEN IT RUN FOR 3 DAYS IN ONE PLACE AND IF I OR A NEIGHBOR DIDN'T GO CHANGE IT, IT WOULD PROBABLY STILL BE RUNNING. I SAW BRAND NEW HOSES LAY FROM THE TIME THEY QUIT WATERING UNTIL DECEMBER. I SAW BRAND NEW HOSES LAY FROM THE TIME THEY TAKEN IS WHEN THE CITY MAN RUNNING BY KIN THE PICKUP EVERY DAY TO HAVE PICKED IT UP AND TOOK IT TO THE CITY BUILDING AND STORED IT THERE WITH CARE IT WOULD LAST FOR SEVERAL SEASONS THIS WAY, MAYBE TWO SEASONS. WE NEED MORE EFFICIENCY IN THE HELP THAT IS HIRED. I'M SURE THERE IS PLENTY WANT AND NEED A JOB BUT IT THEY CAN'T HANDLE IT GET SOMEONE WHO

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TOTAL ALL WARDS WARD 1 WARD 2 WARD 3

CITY FACILITIES	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
POOR	6	2	5
FAIR	10	11	10
GOOD	20	12	23
EXCELLENT	4	4	6
TOTAL	40	33	44
WATER AND SEWER	6	2	5
POOR	11	9	13
FAIR	22	16	16
GOOD	2	4	7
EXCELLENT	0	0	1
TOTAL	35	31	37
FIRE DEPARTMENT	2	1	0
POOR	13	8	12
FAIR	25	22	32
GOOD	0	0	0
EXCELLENT	0	0	0
TOTAL	38	30	44

WHERE DO YOU THINK THE MOST TAX DOLLARS SHOULD BE SPENT-LIST IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE.

1. MOST IMPORTANT 9 LEAST IMPORTANT

AVERAGE ANSWERS	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
ADMINISTRATION	5.7	5.5	6.2
AIRPORT	7.7	7.7	7.5
CEMETERY AND PARKS	5.9	6.9	5.6
BUILDING AND ZONING	6.6	6.4	6.4
POLICE AND JUSTICE	3.3	3.3	3
STREETS AND ALLEYS	3.3	3.2	3.3
CITY FACILITIES	5.0	5.4	4.9
WATER AND SEWER	3.3	3.4	3.3
FIRE DEPARTMENT	3.3	3.1	3.1

WHICH DEPARTMENT NEEDS THE MOST IMPROVEMENTS?

1. MOST IMPORTANT 9 LEAST IMPORTANT

AVERAGE ANSWERS	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
ADMINISTRATION	5.4	5.4	5.3
AIRPORT	7.5	7.2	7.8
CEMETERY AND PARKS	4.9	4.9	4.4
BUILDING AND ZONING	6.0	6.1	5.7
POLICE AND JUSTICE	2.7	3.9	3.2
STREETS AND ALLEYS	5.4	2.7	2.9
CITY FACILITIES	3.3	4.8	4.5
WATER AND SEWER	5.8	3.6	3.3
FIRE DEPARTMENT	5.3	5.8	6.2

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GOOD LUCK!

SCRUTENIZE FOR ANY UNNECESSARY EXPENDITURES OF TAXPAYERS  
OR OTHER PUBLIC FUNDS.

TOO MUCH SPENT ON ADMINISTRATION.

PUT IN PAPER WHAT THE COUNCILORS ARE SUPPOSE TO DO FOR THE PEOPLE.  
DOING GOOD JOB NOW.

NONE EXCEPT THE CITY SHOULD HAVE EQUIPMENT TO HAUL LIMBS AND  
LEAVES, ETC.

BETTER SUPERVISION OF SUMMER HELP IN TAKING CARE OF OUR PARKS.  
THE COUNCIL COULD TAKE MORE TIME AND GET OUT AND SEE HOW THE  
PARKS AND ALLEYS LOOK. (BAD)

IN A COMMUNITY OF OUR SIZE I BELIEVE OUR TYPE OF GOVERNMENT  
IS THE BEST, WE DEFINITELY DO NOT WANT A CITY MANAGER, ALL WE  
HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AND LISTEN TO BUTTE AND BOZEMAN.

MORE INTEREST IN IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITY AS A WHOLE RATHER THAN  
RECREATIONAL.

PROVIDE ALL OF THE BURDEN IS NOT PLACED ON THE PROPERTY OWNERS.

YES, REMEMBER THIS IS JUST A SMALL TOWN, GET YOUR HIFLUTING  
IDEAS OUT OF YOUR HEAD.

BETTER CITY SERVICE, STREETS, ETC.,

GET HOMEOWNERS TO CLEAN ALLEYS. GET ALL JUNK AND UNLICENSED AUTOS  
AND TRUCKS OFF THE STREETS. HAVE MR. DELLINGER QUIT HARASSING  
THE TEENAGERS WHEN IT IS UNNECESSARY.

AS FAR AS THE (AIRPORT) IT SHOULDN'T BE LISTED IN THE CITY AFFAIRS.

LET GARBAGE PICKUP BE THE CHOICE OF THE PROPERTY OWNER, RATHER  
THAN BEING PAID FOR WITHOUT A CHOICE ON RATE HIKES OR WHEN PAY FOR IT.

ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL - THEY DON'T CARE FOR THE PEOPLES PROTESTS  
AND THEY GO AHEAD AND DO THEY WANT.

STREETS AND ALLEYS - THE ALLEYS IN THREE FORKS ARE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE.

WATER AND SEWER - THE RATES ARE TO DAMNED HIGH FOR THE SERVICE YOU  
GET. THE STORM DRAINS ARE ALWAYS PLUGGED DURING RUN OFF AND THE  
LAGOON HAS RUINED THE PITS.

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CAN. I KNOW WAGES YOU PAY AND I KNOW ITS ALL YOU CAN PAY AND IS NOT SO GREAT, BUT IF THEY HIRE OUT FOR THE JOB THEY SHOULD DO THEIR BEST OR GIVE IT TO SOMEONE WHO WILL. I COULD GO ON AND ON BUT I THINK WE NEED BETTER MANAGEMENT.

STUDY RATES CHARGED FOR UTILITIES WITH A VIEW OF LOWERING.

HALF OF THE COUNCIL ON FOR JUST DOLLARS AND THE MAYOR.

IN TOWNSEND PEOPLE \$11.00 PER MONTH FOR UNLIMITED WATER, SEWAGE, GARBAGE SERVICE AND MOUSQUITO CONTROL. WE NEED TO TAKE A BETTER LOOK AT OUR OVERALL OPERATION. IT SEEMS WE ARE GETTING A LITTLE LESS SERVICE FOR MORE TAX DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. WEED CONTROL NEEDS MORE ATTENTION. GRAVELED STREETS NEED MORE UPKEEP.

THE PRESENT TYPE OF GOVERNMENT IS PROBABLY WHAT THREE FORKS CAN AFFORD.

I THINK THE STUDY COMMISSION SHOULD STUDY ALL TYPES OF GOVT., NOT JUST ONE - DON'T MAKE YOU MIND UP IN ADVANCE AND DON'T TRY TO MAKE PERSONAL GAIN BY YOUR WORK ON THE COMMISSION.

THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL GOVT IS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC THAT COULDN'T BE POSSIBLE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS OR BY A SMALL GROUP OF CITIZENS. (EXAMPLE WATER AND SEWER).

I'M SATISFIED WITH THE MAYOR/COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

DON'T CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT WE HAVE NOW. IF IT'S NOT BROKE WHY FIX IT.

KEEP PLUGGING AWAY.

DISBAND AND USE THE REPORT OF THE RECENT COMMISSION MADE JUST A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO.

LEAVE AS IS AND CLOSE THAT STUPID STUDY COMMISSION DOWN.

MORE INFORMATIVE INFORMATION IN REGARD TO CITY STUDY COMMISSION PROBLEMS FOUND, SHOULD BE PUBLISHED AND MORE EFFORT MADE TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC TO BECOME INVOLVED IN CITY GOVERNMENT.

WE FEEL THAT THE RESIDENTS OF THREE FORKS SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL LOCALLY WITHOUT HAVING TO GO THROUGH THE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE. MY EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN A GENERAL PUT OFF BY COUNTY PEOPLE THAT THEY CANNOT REACH HANK OR DAN. I THINK THREE FORKS SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF COUNTY AND HAVE THEIR OWN DISPATCHER AND OFFICE PEOPLE TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS.

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POLICE AND JUSTICE - THE SPEED LAWS ON THE BACK STREETS, ESPECIALLY NEAR THE SCHOOL ARE NOT ENFORCED LIKE THEY SHOULD BE. CITY ORDINANCES SUCH AS THE LEASH LAW IS VERY LAX.

AIRPORT - PLANES ARE TO LOW OVER THE CITY WHEN APPROACHING FROM THE NORTH.

I THINK YOU ARE DOING GREAT, EXCEPT FOR DANGEROUS DRIVING HAZARDS. TRUCKS, VANS, MOTOR HOMES AND ALL 4 WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ANGLE PARK ON MAIN STREET. THEY ARE A HAZARD, BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE, THE CAR DRIVER IS UNABLE TO SEE ON COMING TRAFFIC. PROBABLY, 95% OF THE OTHER TOWNS IN MONTANA HAVE GONE TO PARELLEL PARKING TO ELIMINATE THIS HAZARD. AFTER ALL CARS ARE HERE TO STAY. EVEN OLD LADIES OF 65 PLUS YEARS CAN LEARN TO PARELLEL PARK. I DID!

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-Build new city offices. Build truck route with states help.  
(map included)

-Why raise water and sewer rates?

-Considering the size of Three Forks and the revenues available, the present Mayor/Council government is the probably the most workable and I feel we should stick with it.

-I don't know enough about city business.

-I am satisfied with the present form of government.

-You are doing great. The involvement of students is very good.  
Asking public opinion very good.

-Less government, less spending, less restriction benefits the public.

-Our present Mayor/Council spend too much time and money with Thomas, Dean, & Hoskins. Why the monopoly? Are there no other engineering firms available? Also, our city seems to be anti-business. They do nothing in the areas of industrial development. Also, one of the main functions of local government is to improve the quality of living in an area, both in a cultural sense as well as a business sense.

-Remember: in any form of government you need checks and balances. If not, it turns into a one man show.

-Would hope you are able to get alot of community input.

-The commission is a good start in showing an interest. I believe that the Mayor/Council system should be quite adequate for a town of this size. The people must make it work. There are many more financial avenues than we are currently exploiting. We need a physical face-lift in Three Forks. I oppose consolidation!

-I am satasfied with the present system, although I believe there should be closer observation of departments and appointments to commissions to avoid special interests from "taking charge". I also believe municipal employees should dwell in the city limits and pay city taxes. I also believe that city funds would be best spent for city uses rather than having city employees roam around the country in this city vehicles for lunch, etc.

-We have a good mayor and council. We cannot judge how good each department is, as they are all necessary for the efficient running of our city. They are all doing their upmost to maintain and service our Three Forks. Leave the other forms of government alone. They are most costly besides unsatisfactory. Remember what happened in Madison County?

-In study of the streets, do not pass up the depth that the drains were left so low below the street level. These should be righted.

-Why don't they put in the paper the wages and where the money goes so the people will know?

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