

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICE

HARLOWTON, MONTANA, GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION REPORT

During much of 1985 the Study Commission has attempted to pin point the strengths and weaknesses of the existing form of government in Harlowton and of the services rendered by that government. These strengths and weaknesses were best seen in the results of the poll conducted in May, 1985, by students of Harlowton High School.

Because the poll seemed to indicate a majority approval of the existing form of mayor-council form of government, it is the recommendation of this study commission that no change be made in the existing form of government.

However, this commission does note that there is dissatisfaction with the manner and scope in which some services are rendered by the existing government.

The survey indicated that the combined city-county law enforcement system now in use is satisfactory but that the youth of the community seem to feel that inequities exist. It is the suggestion of this committee that law enforcement personnel could, by more youth involvement and by more education programs, help the image problem that most law enforcement agencies seem to have with the youth.

Although not specifically asked in the survey, a number of people have expressed concern about the absence of curbs, drainage, and sidewalks in the western part of the city and the area north of the highway. Of those who expressed concern, most felt "now is not the time" to do such

work but that the planning ought to proceed. This committee feels that long range planning should begin and continue until such time as the work could be done.

An intensive study of the existing library facilities was made by one member of the study commission to determine ways to increase useage of the facility because the poll seemed to indicate low useage as compared to towns comparable to Harlowton in size.

Therefore it is the recommendation that a serious attempt be made to increase library useage by increasing and enhancing the services offered by the library.

Recognizing that increased services would make it necessary to increase the library budget, the study commission feels that, since library services are available to both city and county residents, the county ought to contribute to the library, perhaps by a 1 mil levy.

A second area of improvement that the study commission feels should be accomplished is in animal control, specifically dogs running loose and the failure of existing laws to control this problem.

It is therefore the recommendation of the study commission that the city government should take heed (and copy if necessary) the successful animal control programs found in some other cities of Montana.

A third area of improvement that the study commission feels should be accomplished is in the management of the refuse disposal area. Here again it is the recommendation of the study commission that the city government look seriously at the several successful programs to be found in Montana.

A fourth and final suggestion from the study commission is that

the city government should take the leadership in promoting a cleaner and more attractive city by removal of abandoned buildings and cars and by the planting of trees, windbreaks and flowers at the approaches to the city.

Therefore, we, the undersigned Government Study Commission of the City of Harlowton, Montana, do propose that no change in city government be made and that no election be held, but that serious consideration be given to the above suggestions to improve services rendered by that government. Under authority of Section 7-3-187, Annotated Codes of Montana.

Signed Commission Members

Wanda Clew
Judy Petermiller
Robert Johnson