



# City of Hamilton

223 South Second Street

Hamilton, MT 59840

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## Media Release

March 13, 2017

Ballots have been mailed to City of Hamilton voters, allowing them to decide whether the City should purchase Claudia Driscoll Park and the former National Guard Armory. The City has conducted multiple public meetings and mailed factual information to every registered voter within the City of Hamilton.

On Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, a letter to the editor was printed in the Ravalli Republic Newspaper which contained information that is factually inaccurate and has the potential to mislead the community.

The letter indicated that the safety of the public has been endangered "by moving fire protection money from the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department to build a Justice Center on the Armory Property." This is not true. Mayor Steele and Brad Mohn, Fire Chief for both the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department and Hamilton Rural Fire District, have confirmed that no money has ever been diverted from the Hamilton Fire Department fund into the Justice Center fund.

There has also never been equipment scheduled to be purchased or replaced for the Hamilton Fire Department that has not been funded by the City. In 2016, the Hamilton Fire Department's Public Protection Classification was reevaluated by the Insurance Service Office and its long-standing safety rating was maintained.

Citizens who have questions or would like factually accurate information about the Hamilton Fire Department budget can contact Fire Chief Mohn. Questions regarding the money the City has saved for the Hamilton Justice Center can be answered the Mayor or the City Financial Administrator.

**Public safety remains a high priority for the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department. That safety has not been compromised or endangered. Both the Hamilton Police Department and Fire Department recognize that the public is best served by maintaining the excellent working relationship that currently exists between these agencies.**

Hamilton Fire Chief Brad Mohn 360-4379

Hamilton Police Chief Ryan Oster 363-2100

Hamilton Mayor Jerry Steele or Financial Administrator Craig Shepherd 363-2101