

### **Comments by petitioner Joan Brownell, 1/30/2018**

It is now 2018 and we petitioners, composed of over 60% of landowners within the proposed Beartooth Front Citizen-Initiated Zone (CIZ) in southern Stillwater County, are no closer to realizing our goals. Please consider the following timeline relative to our efforts and Stillwater County's obstruction and delay to these efforts.

Fall 2014. The Beartooth Front CIZ petition representatives spoke and attempted to speak with county personnel numerous times requesting guidance in regard to collection of signatures for a CIZ petition. The county failed to provide any concrete assistance.

Nov 10, 2015: Beartooth Front CIZ Petition presented to the county commissioners signatures with over 50% of the proposed CIZ land mass and over 60% of landowners signatures within the proposed CIZ District.

*Over three months later*

March 22, 2016: Petitioners receive signature verification process from Clerk & Recorder.

*One month later*

April 27, 2016: Beartooth Front CIZ petitioners respond to county regarding verification process after one month review, agreeing to obtain affidavits for over 100 individuals who signed the petition in a representative capacity although having already acquired their signatures previously

*Over two months later*

July 8, 2016: County Attorney notifies petitioners regarding verification process and agrees to accept method for acquiring affidavits as now required by county

*Seven months later*

February 9, 2017: Beartooth Front CIZ petition re-submitted to county commissioners with over 60% landowner's signatures and over 50% land mass. It took seven months to obtain affidavits as now required by county per letter of July 8, 2016.

*Over two months later*

March 23, 2017: Rather than considering our petition, county announces consideration of action to pursue Part I or Part II zoning.

March 28, 2017: County Commissioner Meeting regarding above ended with no formal decision.

April 11, 2017: County Commissioner's move that the end of acceptance of signed petition was April 14, 2017 and signature verification will be completed on August 9, 2017

*Over five months later*

August 23, 2017: County Attorney notified petitioners through their attorney that the petition was signed by 60.08% of affected landowners, enough to put the petition in front of the Commissioners.

October 2017: County Attorney states that she is going to request an Attorney General Decision relative to whether mineral interests need to be considered in the petition process.

*Three months later*

December 2017: Attorney General declines to provide an opinion in regard to mineral rights. County Attorney decides to obtain a second opinion on the mineral right question

*One month later*

January 30, 2018: Clerk & Recorder provides correspondence to county commissioners that Beartooth Front petitioners have not reached the 60% threshold due to mineral rights owners. This directly contradicts the county attorney's statement in July 2017 that the petitioners had achieved the 60% threshold with the re-submittal in February 2017.

It is unfortunate that the county has hindered the process rather than support the efforts of landowners of southern Stillwater County regarding the Beartooth Front Citizen-Initiated Zoning District for the benefit of all.