

Talkin' 'bout the city

Dillon residents tell what they think about city government... the good and the bad...

By John Barrows

How do Dillon residents feel about their city government?

According to a recent survey, conducted under the auspices of the City Government Study Commission, about four out of five respondents felt it was doing a good or adequate job. A total of 14 percent marked good, and 64 percent said the city government was adequate. Nineteen percent said the city was doing a poor job and three percent did not know.

The survey, compiled through the work of the commission and professionals from Bozeman, was conducted by telephone of several hundred Dillon homes.

When asked if the respondents could vote tomorrow, 67 percent they would make some changes in city government. Over a dozen suggested changes, the largest single change would be to "change mayor," with 13 responses.

The single most mentioned category, with over 80 replies, that need attention were streets and roads.

Those surveyed were evenly split on whether or not the city spends tax dollars wisely, with 48 percent agreeing it did and 45 percent saying it didn't.

Of examples cited of not spending wisely, 23 gave as examples recent street repairs and 16 said water improvements... the largest number of responses.

Services provided by the city varied widely in how those surveyed viewed them as to quality.

The highest marks (good) went to fire protection, 92 percent; law enforcement, 62 percent; city parks, 59 percent; and library services, 54 percent.

The largest area of dissatisfaction, with poor marks, were city streets, with 67 percent saying the city did a poor job; city zoning, 37 percent; city planning, 37 percent; recreational services, 18 percent; city water, 17 percent; cemetery services, 17 percent.

Almost two out of three surveyed felt candidates for city office should run without political party identification.

About one person out of three, or 34 percent, felt that city and county government should be combined into a single consolidated government.

Thirty-two percent of the people surveyed said if they were trying to resolve a problem involving the Dillon City Government, they would contact the mayor first; 21 percent said a council member from their ward and six percent named another council member. Forty-one per-

cent said they didn't know or did not answer.

Approximately half, 48 percent, said they could think of some service that should be consolidated with the county.

Only one in four of those surveyed could recall the number of the city council ward where they lived. Seventy-nine percent were registered voters.

The survey will be used by the Government Study Commission to help formulate proposed changes in city government, chairman Keith Reeder said. Voters will have a chance to vote on any recommendations in the future.