

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARINGS  
May 4, 2020, Minutes**

On Monday, May 4, 2020, the Board of Madison County Commissioners conducted Preliminary Budget Hearings beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Madison County Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Dan Allhands, Chairman, Ron Nye, and Jim Hart present. Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the hearings were Shelly Burke, Pam Birkeland, Suzanne Nellen, Jordan Allhands, Bonnie O'Neill, Bob Bates, and Karen Miller.

**Treasurers' Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Shelly Burke, Treasurer, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Treasurer's Office. Shelly stated that she is making some minor changes, and increasing in a couple places to be prepared for extra expenses because this is the first year that they've outsourced the tax bills.

**Superintendent of Schools Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Pam Birkeland, Superintendent of Schools, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for her office. Shelly Burke, Treasurer, was present for this portion of the meeting. Pam stated that she has left everything the same, noting that she didn't spend much in travel because several meetings have been cancelled or conducted by Zoom. Jim Hart asked how the schools are doing. Pam responded that they are staying closed for the remainder of the year but the big challenge now is how to conduct graduation. She also said that all schools in Madison County got extra funds for the COVID-19 crisis, with Alder getting the least at \$15,000. She stated that morale is good and the teachers stepped up to the plate. A concern is mental health of students and staff due to social distancing and creating a special place to put students who have a fever.

**Justice Court Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Suzanne Nellen, Justice of the Peace, and Jordan Allhands, Justice Court Administrator, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for Justice Court. Suzanne distributed a memorandum with proposed procedures to follow when the Courthouse is reopened to the public. She stated that people would be allowed to enter for official business only, would need to sign in and out, and social distancing would be required. She stated she is requesting no changes to the budget unless they have to buy sanitizer, face masks, or other safety supplies.

**Safety Department Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Bob Bates, Safety Coordinator, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Safety Department. He stated that his bottom line is \$2,000 less than last year but that funds need to be added for the Safety Intern Position. He noted that this position has been approved but was not implemented this year because of the COVID-19 outbreak. He stated that this is a 90 day position, or approximately 720 hours, at \$15.63 per hour. Dan expressed concern about a possible decrease in taxable values due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bob also discussed de-humidifiers for the courthouse, stating that they should be here on Friday.

**Clerk of Courts Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Karen Miller, Clerk of Courts, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Clerk of Courts Office. Karen stated that she has shuffled a few items around with a net decrease of \$400.

With no further business, the hearings concluded at 11:35 a.m.

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Dan W. Allhands, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: May 26, 2020

Minutes prepared by:

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Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Mumme, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County