

BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
July 25, 2016, Meeting Minutes

On Monday, July 25, 2016, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 9:55 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners David Schulz, Chairman, Jim Hart, and Ron Nye present. Laurie Buyan, Commissioners' Assistant, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Leona Stredwick, Charity Fechter, Jennifer Madgic, Phil Van Pelt, Carrie Welch, Lisa Brubaker, Doris Fischer, Claire Leonard, Lance Bowser, and those on the attached list.

Dan Allhands, District 1 Commissioner Candidate, and Casey Klasna, Ennis School Superintendent, were present to observe the meeting.

Blue Lake Fire Status: David Schulz reported on the Blue Lake Fire, noting that he and Jim Hart attended a fire update meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday at the Madison Ranger Station, a public meeting at noon on Saturday at Madison Fire Station 3, and another update meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. He noted that there are 180 people on the fire, 4 helicopters, and other air support. They are planning a burnout for today. To date, the fire has burned approximately 550 to 600 acres.

Approval of Minutes: Jim Hart moved to approve the July 18, 2016, meeting minutes as presented. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Claims: The Board approved claims.

Road Naming Petition: Leona Stredwick, Planning Technician, presented the Board with a resolution to name an unnamed driveway in the Big Sky area. Leona stated that there were initially two houses served by the driveway but as the result of a family conveyance, a third house is being constructed which initiates the need to have the driveway named. She further stated that there is no indication that more homes will be constructed on this road. Following discussion, Jim Hart moved to adopt Resolution 28-2016, a resolution giving a previously unnamed road the name Camp Arrowhead Drive, as recommended by the Planning Department. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Floodplain Update: Charity Fechter, Planning Director, met with the Board to update them on classes she had attended and to review the process on floodplain development permits. Charity attended floodplain training and pre-disaster mitigation training, and stated that both were very beneficial. Charity reviewed a staff report and steps involved in the floodplain permit process. She also provided the Administration portion of the floodplain regulations outlining the process. Charity stated she will add an expiration date on the floodplain application for the permit so that it wouldn't be valid indefinitely if no action is taken by the permittee. Charity also noted that findings of fact are important to include, because findings give validation to the action taken, i.e. issuing or not issuing a permit.

Pay Request and Supporting Document for DNRC for the Lower Big Hole River Stabilization Feasibility Study: Following review, Ron Nye moved to approve the Vendor Invoice from the State of Montana, Pay Request #1, for the Lower Big Hole River Stabilization Feasibility Study, in the amount of \$5,000, as prepared by Great West Engineering. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Gilman Construction Paving Bids: The Board reviewed bids for paving at the Ennis Solid Waste site and portions of the Virginia City Ranches RID. Based on the recommendation of the Solid Waste Board and Solid Waste Foreman, Jim Hart moved to approve the bid from Gilman Construction to furnish and place grade B plant mix with PG 58-28 asphalt cement on 2386 sy at the Solid Waste Transfer Site in Ennis,

including one mobilization, for the amount of \$34,597, with Madison County responsible for traffic control. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. David Schulz stated that members of the Virginia City Ranches RID have been working with Gilman for paving. After discussion, Ron Nye moved to approve the bid from Gilman Construction to furnish and place grade B plant mix with PG 58-28 asphalt cement on the portion of the road from the highway to the first intersection and including aprons on 2 Bumps Road and Cottontail Road in Virginia City Ranches Subdivision, for the amount of \$52,138.38, with additional charges for mobilization and traffic control, recommended by Michelle France, Virginia City Ranches RID representative. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Schulz noted that members of the RID want to stay within their financial parameters and do improvements to the road step by step.

Virginia City Post Office: Jennifer Madgic and Smith Work, Senator Jon Tester Field Representatives, met with the Board to discuss the business hours of the Virginia City Post Office. Jennifer stated that Smith is their specialist in post office issues. David Schulz explained the problems that occur when a county seat has a post office with reduced hours; stating that County offices have a responsibility to our constituents to do business in a timely manner. He further stated that motor vehicle licensing, legal documents, mail ballots, and other services all depend on the postal service. Reduced hours make it difficult, if not impossible to receive mail, process the response, and get it returned the same day. Not only has it slowed down the response time, the overall delivery time for receiving mail has increased from overnight to up to three to four days. Schulz added that the Virginia City Post Office is overseen by the Postmaster in Ennis, who strongly recommends that the Virginia City Post Office is open for at least six hours a day. Smith stated that post offices are now all based on revenue stream and that the revenue stream can be recalculated. She will explore options on how to increase the revenue stream and clarify that this post office gets credit for mail that goes through the County postage machine. She suggested the possibility of starting longer hours on a seasonal basis with the hopes of keeping the extended hours permanently. There was further discussion about time sensitive documents, prescription drug received by mail, and complaints about the hours. Smith stated that she would like letters of complaint from County offices and members of the public describing the difficulties of reduced post office hours and information on specific experiences.

Madison Valley Aquatic Center: Phil Van Pelt, McAllister, and Carrie Welch, Madison Valley Aquatic Center Executive Director, met with the Board to discuss potential funding sources to construct an aquatic center in the Madison Valley. Mr. Van Pelt introduced himself, stating that he was a retired teacher who relocated to Montana from Florida. He became involved in the aquatic center efforts about six months ago, stating that as an educator teaching children to swim is very important and goes hand in hand with education. He stated that the aquatic center is in the process of trying to secure property and discussed some of the options. He also stated that there is an individual who has stated that he will match any donation up to three million dollars. Carrie presented a picture of the proposed facility noting that the proposal has been scaled down quite a bit. There was discussion regarding the number of drowning deaths in Montana and the health benefits of swimming. It was also noted that a therapy unit would be included in the project at some point. Further discussion included the possibility of running a bond issue for the construction of the center and/or the possibility of creating a park district in the Madison Valley for the purpose of operating the Aquatic Center. It was also suggested that other things such as a skate park, waterslide, or archery range could be incorporated into a park district. Phil and Carrie will check into the regulations on creating a park district.

VOCA Grant Budget Request: Lisa Brubaker, Victim's Advocate, presented the Board with a revised budget for Victims Advocate Program. Following review of the budget and the requested letter from Lisa, Jim Hart moved to approve the revised Victims Advocate budget as it was presented to the Montana Board of Crime Control. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Grant Agreement with Montana Healthcare Foundation: Doris Fischer and Claire Leonard, Mental Health Local Advisory Council, met with the Board to discuss a grant agreement with the Montana Health Care Foundation. Doris stated that the Council got the grant that was applied for that will be used to integrate behavioral and physical health in Madison County on a sustainable basis. Doris stated that Chris Christensen, County Attorney, reviewed the grant and did not recommend changes but did point out items

that the Council needs to be aware of. Following much discussion, Jim Hart moved to approve the work plan and incorporate it into the grant agreement. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Jim Hart moved to approve the grant agreement between the Montana Healthcare Foundation and Madison County, to develop an integrated behavioral health plan during the 12-month grant period, with implementation of the plan to follow in years 2 and 3, for an amount of \$28,398. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. The Board agreed that Doris should work with Bonnie O'Neill, Human Resource Officer, to recruit for a part-time person to assist with secretarial duties required by the grant.

Countywide Weed Management Plan Revision: Margie Edsall, Weed Coordinator, presented the Board with a revised weed management plan. Margie stated that the Weed Department is required to review their plan every two years and revise it as needed. She stated that most revisions are related to additional plants on the priority list. Following discussion, Ron Nye moved to approve the Madison County Revised 2016 Integrated Weed Management Plan, as recommended by the Weed Coordinator. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

SRI Land Exchange: Those on the attached list were present for this portion of the meeting. Howard Chrest, Skyline Sportsman's Association, spoke in favor of a proposed land exchange between the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and SRI River Holdings along the Big Hole River near the Pennington Bridge. Mr. Chrest asked the Board to support the proposal, stating that this decision will affect many people including future generations. Leroy Mehring, Tony Schoonen, Harold Johns, Mark Savinski, and Jim Powell, Skyline Sportsman's Association, also spoke in favor of the proposed exchange. Various newspaper articles and maps of the location were distributed and reviewed. It was noted that Skyline Sportsman's Association, in excess of 250 members, has supported this effort for about two and a half years and has worked with the State and with SRI River Holdings to make it happen, however, there is a canoe club that is opposed to a portion of the project. Following much discussion, Ron Nye moved to write a letter of support for the proposed land exchange between the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and SRI River Holdings, in Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 7 West, after reviewing and taking comments from the Planning Board into consideration. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Airports: Lance Bowser, Robert Peccia and Associates, met with the Board to discuss the following airport related topics.

- **Ennis Big Sky Airport – Certificate of Attorney for Land Acquisition Tracts 10A & 10B:** Lance discussed the purchase of Lots 10A and 10B at the Ennis (Big Sky) Airport. He stated that Justin Ekwall, Deputy County Attorney, will review the documentation and sign off that the County has good title to these parcels. Justin is in the process of reviewing the documents.
- **Ennis Big Sky Airport – Airport Layout Plan – Terminal Area Plan:** Lance presented the Board with a copy of the proposed Terminal Area Plan. Lance stated that this plan would be incorporated with the existing Airport Master Plan, noting that the Airport Board has recommended moving forward with it. His only concern is that, although there is room for several more hangars, there is no dedicated space for an additional FBO. Lance noted that the plan is a living document and could be amended later if necessary. Following discussion, Jim Hart moved to approve the Ennis Big Sky Airport Terminal Area Plan, Project #14002.000, dated July 2016, as presented by Lance Bowser, Robert Peccia and Associates. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Ennis Big Sky Airport – Land Acquisitions (east side properties) and Record of Negotiations (Land Acquisition efforts):** Lance presented the Board with a task order for negotiating for the purchase of properties at Ennis Big Sky Airport. There was much discussion regarding whether to conduct appraisals at this point or wait until the owners have been contacted. After much discussion, Jim Hart moved to move forward with Step 1, which is conducting the appraisals. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Lance will break out the task order into three separate task orders and present them to the Board at another meeting.
- **Ennis Big Sky Airport – Master Plan – Phase II:** Lance discussed an updated Master Plan (Phase II) that would bring the Ennis Airport up to a C-2 category. The original Master Plan was

limited to Category B-2. There was further discussion regarding the Master Plan and items that would be included in Phase II.

- **Ennis Big Sky Airport – Application for Federal Assistance:** Following discussion, Jim Hart moved to approve the Application for Federal Assistance to conduct an Updated Master Plan Study, Phase II, for the Ennis Big Sky Airport Improvement Project, for the amount of \$117,000 with a local match of \$13,000, for a total project amount of \$130,000. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Calendars: The Board reviewed calendars.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next meeting: The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Monday, August 1, 2016, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana.

David Schulz, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: August 1, 2016

Minutes prepared by:

Laurie Buyan, Administrative Assistant

Attest: _____
Kathleen Mumme, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County