

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 30, 2016, Meeting Minutes**

On Tuesday, August 30, 2016, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 9:58 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. Jani Flinn, Relief Clerk, was present to take minutes.

Dan Allhands, District 1 Commission candidate, attended the meeting.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Bonnie O'Neill, Shelly Burke, Pam Birkeland, Chad Elser, Vicki Tilstra, Billy Whitehurst, Roger Thompson, and Lynn Lowder.

Caitlyn Avey, Madisonian Reporter, was present for a portion of the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ron Nye moved to approve the August 22, 2016, meeting minutes as presented. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Public Discussion / Comments:** Bonnie O'Neill, Human Resources Manager, informed the Board that two of the custodial employees have turned in their resignations. The Board encouraged her to advertise for replacements as soon as possible.

**Claims:** The Board approved claims.

**Budget Amendments, 2015/2016:** Budget amendments were presented for funds that were over for the 2015/2016 Budget year, as follows:

- **Fair Premium:** After review, Ron Nye moved to approve Resolution 34-2016, a Resolution of Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2015 for Fund 2161 – Fair Premium, in the amount of \$18,750.81, because of adding Pro Rodeo and High School Rodeo as a responsibility of the County and the resulting payment of awards, etc. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Airport:** After discussion, Jim Hart moved to approve Resolution 35-2016, a Resolution of Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2015 for Fund 2170 – Airport, in the amount of \$931,406.91, due to changes in the FAA requirements and funding made available to complete construction projects already in progress at the Ennis/Big Sky airport. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Harrison Street Lights:** After review, Ron Nye moved to approve Resolution 36-2016, a Resolution of Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2015 for Fund 2401 – Harrison Street Lights, in the amount of \$65.08, to cover the cost of front street receptacles which were added to the project. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Livestock Loss Board:** After review, Ron Nye moved to approve Resolution 37-2016, a Resolution of Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2015 for Fund 2860 – Livestock Loss Board, in the amount of \$17,632, to cover the cost of funds previously received for the Carcass Composting project which was turned over to the Ruby Valley Conservation District. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Madison Valley Manor Parking Lot Documents:** After review, Jim Hart moved to approve the Access Easement between Madison Valley Hospital, Inc. and Madison County to provide access for ingress and egress to and between Madison Valley Manor and the Madison Valley Hospital, and allow Madison County to make improvements to the parking lot in front of the businesses. The Access Easement includes a Shared Maintenance Agreement between the entities. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Ponderosa Water Sage Agreement:** The Board discussed a proposed Subscriber Agreement from Ponderosa Advisors, LLC to provide access to their website for water and land records. After much discussion, Ron Nye moved for the Board to take no action at this time. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Blaine Springs Bridge Project – TSEP Draw #4:** After review, Jim Hart moved to approve Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) Request for Funds Form for TSEP contract number MT-TSEP-CG-12-698, Blaine Springs Bridge work, for reimbursement to Madison County in the amount of \$487,442.00, as presented by Great West Engineering. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**School Retirement and Transportation Mills:** Shelly Burke, Madison County Treasurer, and Pam Birkeland, School Superintendent, met with the Board to discuss the Fiscal Year 2016/17 Mill Levies and reviewed General Fund Balances for each school and general enrollment numbers. After discussion, Jim Hart moved to approve the Madison County School Mill Levy of 67.32 Mills for 2016/2017 school year, as recommended by the School Superintendent. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Pam reviewed individual school budgets. After discussion, Jim Hart moved to approve Budget Report FY2016-17 for Sheridan High School, Sheridan Elementary, Harrison K-12 Schools, Ennis K-12 Schools, Alder Elementary and Twin Bridges K-12 Schools, as recommended by the School Superintendent. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Request for Real Estate Tax Refund:** Chad Elser, Department of Revenue, and Shelly Burke, Treasurer, met with the Board to discuss a request for real estate tax refund from Harvey Campbell. DOR has inspected the property and made adjustments to the valuation and combined the two parcels due to construction that has been added. After discussion, Jim Hart moved to request the Treasurer to process a refund to Harvey R. Campbell for an overage paid on 2015 property taxes, Geo Code 25-0104-14-2-01-0000 and 25-0104-14-2-01-35-0000, Tax ID #27225000 and #27224900, in the amount of \$967.54, due to a structure being located on both parcels making it impractical to sell each parcel separately. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**HR Request for Moving Stipend:** Ron Nye moved to approve a request for moving assistance in the amount of \$750.00 for Bonnie O'Neill. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Big Sky Trust Fund – Funding Commitment Letter for Twin Bridges PER:** After discussion, Ron Nye moved to approve a funding commitment letter to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. for a \$5,000 commitment from Madison County toward the Twin Bridges Preliminary Engineering Report project application for Grant from Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Increase of Fair Grounds Fees:** No action was taken at this time.

**Airports:**

- **Certificate of Title for Tracts 10A and 10B:** The Board reviewed a final Certificate of Title prepared by Justin Ekwall, Deputy County Attorney, to certify to the FAA that satisfactory property interest to Tract 10-A and Tract 10-B is vested in Madison County. After review, Jim Hart moved to approve Certificate of Title, as prepared by the Deputy County Attorney, for Tract 10A and 10B purchased for the Ennis/Big Sky Airport. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Resolution Adopting Final Budget and Mill Levy Requirements:** Roger Thompson, Madison County Sheriff, was in attendance for this portion of the meeting. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Manager, met with the Board to present the Final Budget. The Hearing came to order at 1:10 p.m. Discussion included the overall County Mills, Reserves, cap on reserves, and budget for the Courthouse renovation. Roger Thompson thanked the Board for their support of the Sheriff's budget and keeping their department staffed appropriately. With an additional deputy they hope to reduce overtime and increase road and traffic patrols.

The hearing was closed at 1:59 p.m. Ron Nye moved to approve Resolution 33-2016, A Resolution Adopting Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget and Mill Levy Requirements, as recommended by Vicki Tilstra, Finance Manager. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Caitlyn Avey, Madisonian Reporter, and Lynn Lowder, DUI Taskforce, joined the meeting at this time.

**Fair Recap, Next Year Predictions, Etc.:** Billy Whitehurst, Jefferson/Madison County Extension Agent, met with the Board to discuss the following items. Billy informed the Board that he has filed a formal complaint to the Montana State 4-H Leader's Council for inappropriate speakers' comments during the 2016 Congress. A Copy of his letter was given to the Board. The Montana Department of Agriculture is taking over the weed/pesticide program and will decrease access to the public and affect licensed applicators. Billy feels that a Comprehensive Program Review is needed for the current Extension position. Madison County has different needs than Jefferson County and the split between production agriculture and the 4-H management is hard to manage. Billy will be meeting with Jefferson County to give them the same update on the fair and program needs. Infrastructure issues at the fairgrounds will need to be addressed before next year. The 4-H portion of the fair was at capacity this year and may not be able to house the projected number of animals next year. They had 39 lambs, 35 steers, and 129 swine this year. Power needs to be brought up to code, and space issues adjusted. Communication was also an issue. The Board indicated that a planning grant is in process to address these issues as well as other infrastructure needs for Twin Bridges. They would like to participate in a joint meeting with Jefferson County to address staffing needs and discuss on-going projections for the 4-H participation next year.

**Public Discussion / Comments:** Lynn Lowder asked if Big Sky had their own Search & Rescue. David Schulz confirmed that Madison County and Gallatin County share the responsibility of search & rescue operations. Lynn shared concerns about the staffing for the Sheriff's office and was pleased to hear that another deputy was authorized for the current budget year.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

**Next meeting:** There will be no meeting on Monday, September 5, 2016 due to the Labor Day holiday. The next regular Commission meeting will be held on **Monday, September 12, 2016**, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana.

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David Schulz, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: September 12, 2016

Minutes prepared by:

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Jani Flinn, Relief Clerk

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