

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 26, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

On Tuesday, February 26, 2019, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 9:50 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Ron Nye, Chairman, Jim Hart, and Dan Allhands present. Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant to the Madison County Board of Commissioners, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Leona Stredwick, Cody Marxer, Adam Johnson, Ciara Wolfe, Vicki Tilstra, Jani Flinn, Bonnie O'Neill, Van Puckett, Charity Fechter, Tommy Luksha, Shelly Burke, Melissa Brummell, and Justin Ekwall.

**Approval of Minutes:** No minutes were available for approval.

**Claims:** The Board approved claims.

**Library Board Appointment:** The Board reviewed an application for the vacant seat on the Library Board and contacted Jack Albrecht, Library Director, for his input on the appointment. Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved to appoint Nancy Whiting to the Library Board for a remainder of a five year term that will expire on June 30, 2019. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Elected Board Appointments by Acclamation:** Following review of a letter from the Clerk and Recorder's Office requesting appointments of elected board members, Jim Hart moved to appoint the following members to their respective boards: Lois Stephens and Lyman Bennett III to the Virginia City Rural Fire District Board for three year terms that will expire in May of 2022; William Tate and John Anderson to the Alder Rural Fire District Board for three year terms that will expire in May of 2022; Max Moltich and Bruce Peterson to the Sheridan Rural Fire District Board for three year terms that will expire in May of 2022; Charles Miller to the Twin Bridges Rural Fire District Board for a three year term that will expire in May of 2022; Dan Happel to the Harrison Rural Fire District Board for a three year term that will expire in May of 2022; Otis Thompson and Albert Hendricks to the Madison Valley Rural Fire District Board for three year terms that will expire in May of 2022; Warren Swager and Carol Braach to the Ruby Valley Hospital Board for three year terms that will expire in May of 2022; James Hageman to the Madison Valley Hospital Board for a three year term that will expire in May of 2022; and Charlie Rossiter and David Ross to the Ruby Valley Park District Board for four year terms that will expire in May of 2023. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Public Hearing Regarding the Adoption of the Big Sky Trails Master Plan:** At 10:00 a.m., the public hearing was postponed to accommodate members of the public who were travelling to Virginia City, Montana, from Big Sky, Montana, but were delayed because of inclement weather.

**Request for Refund of Attorney Fees:** Because of inclement weather, this topic was continued to the next regular Commission meeting.

**Fair Board Update:** Because of inclement weather, this topic was continued to the next regular Commission meeting.

**Transportation District Board Member:** The Board discussed the membership of the Big Sky Transportation District Board and will review the bylaws of the Board before making a determination on termination of a member who has missed several meetings.

**Public Hearing Regarding the Adoption of the Big Sky Trails Master Plan:** Chairman Nye opened the Public Hearing regarding the adoption of the Big Sky Trails Master Plan at 10:26 a.m. Leona Stredwick,

Planner I, Cody Marxer, Planning Clerk, Adam Johnson, Director of Parks and Trails in Big Sky, and Ciara Wolfe, Executive Director of the Big Sky Community Organization, were present for the public hearing. Leona read the proposed resolution. Ciara introduced herself and thanked the Board for considering the resolution. She discussed the value of having trails in place in Big Sky noting that they are used for both recreation and transportation purposes. Adam discussed the public responses and comment to the trails proposal and agreed with Ciara on the value of these trails to the community of Big Sky. Leona added that the Board and staff support the proposal. Hearing no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 10:34 a.m. Based on the recommendation of the Big Sky Parks and Trails District and the recommendation of the Planning Board, Jim Hart moved to approve Resolution 11-2019, a resolution to adopt the Big Sky Master Trails Plan and include it by reference in the Madison County Growth Policy 2012 Update. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Ron Nye stated that this is one more piece of the puzzle that makes Big Sky such a unique place and added that it is people like you (Adam and Ciara) that make it happen. There was further discussion about the steering committee for the Community Strategic Visioning, kicking off the action plan, resort tax legislation, and the TIGER grant for road work in Big Sky.

**Nursing Homes Update:** Darcel Vaughn, Nursing Homes Administrator, met with the Board to give an update on both nursing homes. She started with the Madison Valley Manor, discussing the current census, staffing, CNA testing and classes, the budget, and the upcoming public hearing for the CDBG update. She then discussed the Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center topics, including census, staffing, budget, and upcoming needs. Darcel also reviewed the ageing reports for each facility.

**Madison Valley Ranchlands Group – Carcass Composting Site:** This topic was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

**Snowplow Bid for District 3:** Jim Hart discussed snow plow bids and requested that he be allowed to get what he needs within his budget and asked for discretion on the selection of how many trucks he needs and whether he would like to lease or purchase. After review, Jim Hart moved to approve a letter to Nelson A. Martinez, Sales Director of Kenworth of South Florida, thanking him for his bid and notifying him that it was not selected. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Jim discussed equipment that is broken down and the amount of money spent on maintenance and repairs of older trucks. Ron agreed and asked that Jim determine what he needs and bring it back to the Board. Discussion included the necessity of working in the dark, the option of buying or leasing, and the need to make a determination fairly soon so that a truck would be available by next year. After much discussion, it was determined that Road District 3 would re-advertise for snowplow trucks and send notices and specs to Peterbilt, Kenworth, and Freightliner.

**Great West Task Order #20 for Permitting Bank Stabilization Projects at the Fairgrounds and near the Duncan District Bridge:** Following review, Jim Hart moved to approve Task Order 20 - Bank Stabilization Permitting - Beaverhead and Ruby Rivers, from Great West Engineering to provide engineering services to assist Madison County in permitting streambank stabilization measures at one location on the Beaverhead River and two locations on the Ruby River, for an amount not to exceed \$18,400. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Planning Office Recruitment and/or Reorganization:** The Board discussed staffing needs in the Planning Office. Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, Vicki Tilstra, Finance, Van Puckett, Sanitarian, Charity Fechter, Planning Director, Jani Flinn, Grant Administrator, Leona Stredwick, Planner I, Cody Marxer, Planning Clerk, Tommy Luksha, GIS, and Shelly Burke, Treasurer, were present for this portion of the meeting. Emails from Planning Board members Rita Owens, Ethan Kunard, and Tamara Millican-Woods referencing the replacement of the Planning Director were distributed and reviewed. There was discussion about the growth in Big Sky and the taxable value of the Resort Tax District. Charity stated that planning revenues have gone down a bit but tax revenues have not. She listed several duties that the Planning Office participates in such as but not limited to, subdivision exemptions; subdivision reviews, including preliminary plats, overall development plans, and final plats; floodplain development permits and reviews; Airport Affected Area reviews; Big Hole Conservation Development Standard reviews; Tall Tower permits; addressing; road naming resolutions; pre-construction safety review processes; and other

Planning-related topics such as annexation and zoning. There was discussion regarding the continued growth in Big Sky; groundwater studies that tell people if it is appropriate to subdivide and if there will be enough water to support the subdivision; reclassification of the current office staff, upgrading the Planner I position to a Planner II positions and upgrading the clerk position to a Planning Tech position; enlisting the services of someone qualified to review subdivisions and other work that is done in the office; applications that have been received for the Planning Director position; the possibility of using the 90-day, short term position to fill the need until a permanent replacement can be found; and contracting with Beaverhead County for the use of their Planner on a short-term, part-time basis. Following much discussion, Jim Hart moved to advertise a Request for Proposals for consulting services for the Planning Department. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. The Board will also request Justin Ekwall, Deputy County Attorney, to write a Memorandum of Understanding with Beaverhead County for the use of their Planner as needed.

**Remove Mobile Home from Tax Rolls:** Shelly Burke, Treasurer, met with the Board to discuss removing a mobile home that is not livable from the tax rolls. Shelly stated that the Department of Revenue has looked at it and verified that no-one is living in it and that it is sitting on blocks. Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved to authorize the Treasurer to remove 1979 Model Colt mobile home, Taxpayer ID #916001400, from the tax rolls. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**DUI Task Force Update:** Because there were no members of the DUI Task Force that were able to attend the meeting, this topic will be rescheduled to a later date.

**Resolution 12-2019, A Resolution to Increase Membership on the Housing Advisory Board:** Cody Marxer, Planning Clerk, presented the Board with a draft resolution to increase the number of members on the Housing Advisory Board with the hope that increased membership will generate interest and increase quorum. Per prior discussion and recommendation of the Housing Advisory Board, Jim Hart moved to approve Resolution 12-2019, a resolution amending Resolution 14-2018 to modify the Madison County Housing Advisory Board membership from seven to nine members. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Courthouse Elevator Project:** The Board discussed the Courthouse Elevator Project and questioned how much it would cost to finish the plans for the vault and the Clerk and Recorder's old office. The Board will contact ThinkOne Architects to ask what the cost would be to finish the plans for the project.

Melissa Brummell, Public Health Nurse, met with the Board to discuss the following topics. Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, was present for this portion of the meeting.

- **Public Health Update:** Melissa presented and reviewed a Public Health Office report. Topics included school services and education, grants, organizations and groups, communicable diseases and Public Health response, immunizations and vaccines, completed projects, upcoming projects, completed trainings, and upcoming trainings. Melissa discussed several of these topics in depth and invited the Commissioners to attend the Big Sky Behavioral Health Summit that will be held in Dillon on October 3rd and 4th.
- **Request to Attend Healthier Rural West 2019 Summit:** Melissa discussed a three day summit that will be held in Salt Lake City from March 19 to March 21, 2019, and asked permission to attend. She gave an overview of the summit, discussed the costs involved, and stated there is money in the Public Health budget to cover the costs. Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved to approve Melissa Brummell going to the Healthier Rural West 2019 summit in Salt Lake City. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Mammoth Road:** Justin Ekwall, Deputy County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss possible litigation strategy on an issue related to the Mammoth Road. This portion of the meeting was closed to the public.

**Calendars:** The Board reviewed calendars.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**Next meeting:** The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana.

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Ronald E. Nye, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: March 14, 2019

Minutes prepared by:

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Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant to the  
Madison County Board of Commissioners

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