

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**March 19, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

**Skype Interviews for Planning Director Candidates:** On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. Skype interviews were held in the Public meeting room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City. The Board of Commissioners and the hiring committee participated in the Skype interviews with two (2) candidates being considered for the planning director position. The following individuals were present for the interviews: Charity Fechter, Commissioner Dan Allhands, Commissioner Ron Nye, Pat Bradley, Leona Stredwick, Darlene Tussling, Tamara Millican-Wood, Kathleen Mumme, and Bonnie O'Neill. Tommy Luksha also attended the meeting as an observer.

The interviews began at 10:30 AM. Each candidate participated in their scheduled interview. A review of the candidate's interviews were discussed. The Committee decided to request that the Madison County Board of Commissioners make a decision to offer the planning director position to one of the two candidates at their 1:30 p.m. meeting.

This portion of the meeting concluded at 12:20 PM. (Minutes prepared by Bonnie O'Neill)

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On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 1:05 p.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 Bob Schmaing, Vicki Tilstra, Tommy Luksha, Bonnie O'Neill, Tammy Mahlstedt, Bronwen Pfau, Reagan Colyer, Ellis Thompson, and Justin Ekwall.

**Approval of Minutes:** Following review, Jim Hart moved to approve the March 14, 2019, Special Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes as presented. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Open Bids for Snow Plow Trucks for Road District #3:** The Board received and opened two bids for snowplow trucks for the District #3 Road Crew. Bob Schmaing, Montana Peterbilt, was present for this portion of the meeting. Jim Hart will review the bids and discuss with his road crew.

**Claims:** The Board approved claims.

**Madison Valley Search and Rescue 2019 Training Plan:** The Board reviewed the 2019 Training Plans that were submitted by the Madison Valley Search and Rescue. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Director, was present for this portion of the meeting. Vicki stated that she is very impressed with the new secretary for the Madison Valley Search and Rescue and provided documentation from the Department of Revenue and the Secretary of State showing that the Madison Valley Search and Rescue is in good standing and that all of their paperwork is in order. Dan Allhands commented that they have a lot of good trainings coming up. Following discussion, Jim Hart moved to approve the Madison Valley Search and Rescue Training Calendar for 2019. Dan Allhands seconded the motion.

**Road Review Committee Resignation:** Following review, Jim Hart moved to accept the resignation from Gary Hadley from the Madison County Road Review Committee and to advertise the vacancy. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Time Clocks:** Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, Tammy Mahlstede, Human Resource Generalist, Vicki Tilstra, Chief Financial Officer, and Tommy Luksha, met with the Board to discuss time clocks. Bonnie stated that she and Tammy are participating in a trial on time clocks, discussed how the time clock program works, and distributed pages from the personnel policy manual related to work weeks and the resolution setting County office hours. Vicki stated that she is not ready to go Countywide with time clocks, noting that she would need a lot of assistance from department heads when it does happen and that there are various ways to address time off.

**Recommendation to Hire Planning Director:** Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, Tammy Mahlstede, Human Resource Generalist, Vicki Tilstra, Chief Financial Officer, and Tommy Luksha, met with the Board to discuss the Planning Director interviews and make a recommendation to the Board. Based on the recommendation of the hiring committee Dan Allhands moved to offer the Planning Director position to Alex Hogel of Kalispell, Montana, with the beginning wage of 80% of the current Planning Director's salary. After further discussion, Dan amended the motion to have the beginning wage based on an experience rating evaluation. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Request for Refund of Attorney Fees:** The Board contacted Dana Escott, Fair Manager, to discuss her request for a refund of attorney fees for an incident that happened at the Fairgrounds. Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, Tammy Mahlstede, Human Resource Generalist, and Vicki Tilstra, Chief Financial Officer, were present for this portion of the meeting. Bonnie asked if a cancelled check had been received for the charges that Dana is requesting reimbursement for. She also asked what Lisa Brubaker's position is as far as making recommendations. Bonnie will ask Lisa what she would normally recommend. Ron stated that the Board has been told that if the reimbursement is approved, the funds should come out of the Fair Budget. Vicki agreed that it is a Fair expense and should come out of that budget. Dana will provide cancelled checks for the expenses and put the request on the Fair Board agenda.

**Harrison Fire District Board Member Appointment:** Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved to appoint Elizabeth Ann Hall to the Harrison Rural Fire District Board for the remainder of a three year term that will expire in May of 2021. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Transportation District Board Member/Bylaws:** The Board reviewed bylaws from the Big Sky Transportation District Board and discussed the removal of a member of the board. Based on email transmission from the Big Sky Transportation District Board, Jim Hart moved to accept the recommendation of the Big Sky Transportation District Board to remove John Knapton as a member of the board and to advertise for a vacancy. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Courthouse Elevator Project:** The Board discussed the Courthouse Elevator Project and the possibility of completing accessible restrooms on the main level of the building and the possibility of using alternate locations for accessible court hearings if necessary. The Board will meet with the judges to get their input on a reduced scope of work for the project before contacting ThinkOne Architects regarding the plans.

**Ruby Valley Taxi Sober Rides Home:** Bronwen Pfau, Ruby Valley Taxi, met with the Board to discuss a "Sober Rides Home" program that she has implemented through her taxi service. She stated that she started providing the service for a local bar that rented a vehicle for her to use on special occasions. She added that she donated her time to provide this service. She has since received a 1988 Ford Expedition that was donated to the cause. She is registered with the state and is in the process of applying for a non-profit status. She stressed her desire to keep rides free if possible and has asked for donations from various entities. She also noted that she has a person to help her shuttle vehicles home for people if necessary. She is currently requesting support from the DUI Task Force and has been asked to provide documentation of her costs. She provided the Board with a flyer for the taxi service, a list of rides provided with the amount of donations received, and copies of gas receipts. She asked the Board to write a letter of support to provide to potential funding sources adding that she will also ask the local bars, neighbors, and those using her services for support letters too. Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved to write a letter of support for the Ruby Valley Taxi – Free Rides Home. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Resolution to Establish Predatory Wolf Management Reimbursement Fees:** The Board reviewed a proposed resolution for wolf bounty fees. Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved to approve Resolution 14-2019, a resolution to establish a predatory wolf management fee of \$100 for those people who have legally and lawfully taken/harvested/trapped a wolf within Madison County and presented the same to the Livestock Protective Committee for certification. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Legal Services for Road Issues:** Justin Ekwall, Deputy County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss legal services for road issues in Madison County. Ron Nye asked Justin about bringing in an outside attorney to help with road issues such as the Pony-Mammoth Road. Justin stated that it would be very helpful to have someone with road experience and reminded the Board that the County Attorney's Office is obligated to deal with criminal cases first. There was discussion regarding attorneys that might be available to help with road projects and other roads that might lead to litigation. Eli Thompson discussed other roads currently in contention, stating that it would be good to get someone with expertise in roads and, although it would cost some money, get these items done. There was also discussion regarding RS2477 roads. Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved for Madison County to research and retain outside counsel for County Road issues. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Justin will contact attorneys that were suggested to check on their availability.

**Calendars:** The Board reviewed calendars.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

**Next meeting:** The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 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 26, 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