

BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
March 27, 2018, Meeting Minutes

On Tuesday, March 27, 2018, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Ron Nye, Chairman, and Dan Allhands present. Jim Hart was absent to attend the Montana Association of County Road Supervisors Conference in Great Falls, Montana. Laurie Buyan, Commissioners' Assistant, and Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk, were present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Bonnie O'Neill, Charity Fechter, Vicki Tilstra, Van Puckett, John Reichert, Randy Carpenter, Dennis Glick, Darcel Vaughn, and Dale Olson.

Approval of Minutes: Dan Allhands moved to approve minutes from the March 13, 2018, meeting with corrections. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Dan Allhands moved to approve minutes from the March 20, 2018, meeting as presented. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Position: Bonnie O'Neill, Human Resources, met with the Board to review the updated job description for the proposed Development Coordinator Position. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, Charity Fechter, Planning Director, and Van Puckett, Sanitarian, were also present for this portion of the meeting. Bonnie pointed out that the description, reporting structure and wage scale are not finalized on the proposed job description, and is seeking input regarding any changes needed. Dan questioned the need for this position, pointing out that the work may already be covered by other positions, that anyone filling it would need a vast list of qualifications, and expressed the need for additional written justification. Charity responded that she knows of fully qualified people interested in the position and will provide documentation to the Board to further explain the need for the position. Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved to table discussion of the Development Coordinator Position until the next regular Commission meeting. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Claims: The Board approved claims.

Courthouse Elevator Project: This topic was continued to the next regular Commission meeting.

SW Drug Task Force Support Letter: Following review, Dan Allhands moved to approve sending a letter to the Montana Board of Crime Control expressing support for continued funding for the Southwest Montana Drug Task Force. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

John Reichert, Madison County resident, stopped in with questions about making improvements to what he stated was a private road in the subdivision where he resides. The Board advised him to consult with the Planning Department, and possibly with the County Attorney.

Amended Resolution and Bylaws for Housing Board: Following review, Dan Allhands moved to adopt Resolution 14-2018, Re-Establishing a Housing Advisory Board in Madison County and correcting the number of board members. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Vacation Overage Extension Requests: Bonnie O'Neill, Human Resources, and Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, met with the Board to request approval for extending vacation times for several employees who have accrued more than the maximum number of hours allowed by Madison County and will be unable to use the vacation overages before March 31, 2018. Those requesting the extension are Phil Fortner, Craig Schroder, Wes Heavrin, Lynda Holt, and Janet Fortner from the Sheriff's Office; and Vicki Tilstra, Finance Office. Items of discussion included financial impact to the County and the necessity of taking time off. Vicki stated she will send a current vacation overage report to the Board for review. Following discussion,

Dan Allhands moved to approve extending vacation overages until December 31, 2018, for the employees listed above. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Randy Carpenter and Dennis Glick, Future West, met with the Board to discuss the following topics. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, was also present for this portion of the meeting.

- **Update on North Willow Creek Reclamation Project:** Randy stated that the DNRC has finally authorized funding of \$286,000 for the North Willow Creek Reclamation Project and explained how a delay affected starting the project. Dennis expects work to get going by mid-summer and be completed in the fall. Discussion ensued about logistics, water quality, matching funds, and DNRC expectations.
- **New Grant Application:** With the near completion of the North Willow Creek Reclamation project, Future West is focusing their attention on reprocessing former mining areas in northern Madison County and presented a DNRC planning grant application to explore Camp Creek, Rochester Creek, Upper Alder Gulch, Upper South Boulder Creek, Jefferson River-Dry Boulder Creek, and North Willow Creek sub-watersheds. The process of identifying potential project sites was summarized, several benefits of moving ahead with projects of this type were discussed, as well as public involvement, budget impact and application timelines. Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved to approve submitting the Planning Grant Application for Field Investigations of Madison County Abandoned Mine Lands for Reclamation Prioritization. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Airports - Ennis Big Sky Airport Fire Suppression Equipment FAA Support Request: This topic was continued to the next regular Commission meeting.

Grants: The Board discussed the following grant topics.

- **Grant Requests:**
 - **Development Coordinator Funding:** There was no discussion on this topic.
 - **Affordable Housing Studies/Analysis:** There was no discussion on this topic.
- **Extension of Moore's Creek DEQ Permit:** Following review, Dan Allhands moved to approve the extension of the Moore's Creek DEQ Storm Water Discharge permit. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Human Resources: Bonnie O'Neill, Human Resources, met with the Board to discuss the following topics.

- **Authorization to Fill Part-time Dietary Aide-Madison Valley Manor:** Following discussion, Dan Allhands moved to approve the authorization form to hire a part-time dietary aide at Madison Valley Manor. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Authorization to Fill Part-time Social Services Director-Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center:** Dan Allhands moved to approve the authorization form to hire a part-time social services director at the Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Human Resource Topics: Darcel Vaughn, Interim Administrator, Madison Valley Manor, met with the Board to discuss several Madison Valley Manor topics. Bonnie O'Neill, Human Resources, was present for this portion of the meeting. Commissioner Jim Hart participated in this portion of the meeting by telephone. Darcel informed the Board that she is happy to be back at the Manor and reviewed an extensive list of human resource-related items she is addressing to support the staff, maintain morale, and retain employees. She included input from staff and the Manor's Auxiliary Board. Additional items of note included: pay recommendations, contract and insurance updating, anticipated CMS survey and its revised process, the need for staffing and staff training, budget variations, lack of available housing and its effect on hiring and relocation, and facilities recruitment and retention. All agreed on the importance of resuming monthly administrator reports, clarifying reporting expectations, and increased Board oversight and participation. Darcel distributed copies of the 2017 federal regulations for long term care facilities, reviewing current and planned projects to ensure the Manor's compliance with revised policies. She also mentioned upcoming maintenance issues, including replacement of aging boiler and generator, and replacing tiles in the nurses' station. Darcel is working on a mill levy flyer which she will present for the Board's approval prior to distribution. Recent audit findings and recommended changes were briefly discussed and it was

determined that this topic should be continued to the next regular Commission meeting to include the administrator from the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center.

Dale Olson, Madison District Ranger, met with the Board to discuss the following topics.

- **Schedule A Agreement:** Dale discussed the Schedule A Road Maintenance Agreement between the Forest Service and Madison County. He brought last year's agreement and the master agreement for reference. Maintenance of Potosi Hot Springs Road was discussed in reference to numerous requests from a new homeowner who reports that she was told someone would keep the road open for them since they have a two-year-old child. It is not a county road. Dale agreed that if it is a Forest Service road they will maintain it, noting that the Forest Service does not plow roads that are designated closed in winter as this one is, but does issue snowplow permits to residents. Ron stated that he has heard that the South Boulder Road is no longer included on Schedule A. He questioned if it should still be part of the agreement. Dale requested that the Commissioners review the documents for changes and send him input. He will ask to be scheduled on a regular Commissioner's meeting agenda in a month or so for further discussion.
- **Forest Service Update:** Dale reported that the Forest Service will be working on the West Fork Ruby Trail this summer; adding more straw, reseeding, improve crossings and drainage, spraying weeds, etc. This is an area that receives a lot of input from the public, with interest from state politicians and the Ruby Conservation District as well. They have scheduled a July 16, 2018 work week and would happily accept help with this. Dale mentioned that the Forest Service is communicating with Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance to make sure they are doing the right thing up there, communicating and having meetings to re-forge relationships, heal past issues and move forward. Ron asked about the Snowcrest area in relation to Senator Daines' Wilderness Study Area bill. Dale responded that the Forest Service will continue to manage it as they have until the current Forest Plan is revised or amended, and that it would take a lot of work for someone to change its designation from "recommended wilderness" to "wilderness". Dan asked about the status of the Current Creek gate, noting that it was still locked. Dale said he would look into it. Dale updated the Board on the Greenhorn Project, which has had delays due to staffing changes but is continuing. Dale mentioned a lawsuit to stop grazing, noting that a preliminary injunction has been filed. They are waiting to see what happens and hoping common sense will prevail. He further stated that the tide is starting to turn on frivolous lawsuits. He stated that carcasses are still being hauled, Dale estimated there have been four to date.

Calendars: The Board reviewed calendars.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Next meeting: The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana.

Ronald E. Nye, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: April 10, 2018

Minutes prepared by:

Jane Bacon, Commissioner's Clerk, and

Laurie Buyan, Administrative Assistant

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