

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARINGS  
May 17, 2018, Minutes**

On Thursday, May 17, 2018, the Board of Madison County Commissioners conducted Preliminary Budget Hearings beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Madison County Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Ron Nye, Chairman, Jim Hart, and Dan Allhands present. Laurie Buyan, Commissioners Assistant, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the hearings were Kathleen Mumme, Bonnie O'Neill, Suzanne Nellen, Jordan Allhands, Pam Birkland, Denny Lueck, Jani Flinn, Charity Fechter, and Vicki Tilstra.

**Clerk and Recorder Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Kathleen Mumme, Clerk and Recorder, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Clerk and Records' Office, Elections, and Records Preservation. Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, was present for this portion of the meeting. Kathleen stated that the budget has gone down on travel and lodging expenses but machinery maintenance has increased due to voting machines. She discussed a possible lease for a color copier/scanner. She noted that she is not changing anything in records preservation and talked about items purchased and progress made in the archive room. She discussed running school elections, which has increased the workload. Kathleen stated that the one request she has is to move one position from a clerk to a deputy. Jim Hart noted that the additional cost of this move would be \$4,368 per year. Dan Allhands asked what an extra deputy would do. Kathleen responded that she has a great team and discussed duties that are required in the office, much of which requires a deputy to do such as signing documents or birth and death certificates. There was further discussion regarding elections, mail ballots versus polling places, and school elections.

**Justice of the Peace Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Suzanne Nellen, Justice of the Peace, and Jordan Allhands, Justice Court Administrator, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for Justice Court. Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, was present for this portion of the meeting. Jordan provided spreadsheets of 2017-2018 Justice Court expenses including office supplies and jury claims sheets. Suzanne stated that the office is running well adding that she has made no changes to the budget. Discussion included the revenue brought in by the court and where it is dispersed; the possibility of getting Vision-net in the downstairs courtroom; and using the Public Meeting Room at the Administrative Office Building if there is a need for an additional courtroom. Suzanne stated that she is aware of another elected official who is requesting the balance of the \$2,000 stipend, and supported that request. She also thanked the Board for the increase she received last year.

**Superintendent of Schools Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Pam Birkland, Superintendent of Schools, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Superintendent of Schools Office. Pam stated most of the costs come from travel for Board meetings and trainings. She made a couple of minor changes to the budget, decreasing publications and subscriptions and increasing travel. Pam stated she is requesting \$800 gross per pay period to compensate for the current 32 hours per pay period, attending board meetings, and working from home when she's not in the office. Jim Hart asked if most of her time was devoted to Alder. Pam responded that she does spend time in Alder because they don't have a superintendent but some of the time is also spent on attending board meetings.

**Solid Waste, Junk Vehicle, and Recycling Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Denny Lueck, Solid Waste Foreman, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for Solid Waste and Junk Vehicle. Jani Flinn, Airport Board Secretary, was present for this portion of the meeting. Discussion included getting a license for a new solid waste site at the cost of \$500 and possibly closing two existing sites; an increase in operating supplies because it goes over every year; an increase of \$10,000 in tipping fees for Gallatin County due to an increase in tonnage taken to Logan; and the purchase of a new truck budgeted at \$150,000 and a hook at \$30,000. Denny discussed the junk vehicle budget stating that it would stay the same for now because the amount coming from the State is still unknown. He further stated that recycling comes out of the Solid Waste budget.

**Planning Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Charity Fechter, Planning Director, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Planning Department. Charity started with expenses noting that she has added \$16,500 for the Development Coordinator Position, stating that it has been there before at the same amount. They plan to supplement the position with grant funding and are looking at options for that. She also added \$20,000 to other professional services in case there is a need. Other than these two items, the expenditure portion of the budget will remain the same, with the intent to keep expenses down as much as possible. Charity then discussed revenues, noting that she budgets conservatively on the planning fees because they vary quite a bit and she has no control over it. She also stated that the Planning Board has recommended increasing the mills from 1.25 to 1.5 because the cash went in the red at one point. They received a check to cover it but would like to prevent it from happening again. There was discussion regarding past mills levied for the Planning Department; another grant being submitted for the next step in the LiDar project; and repairs on the office vehicle.

**Housing Board Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Charity Fechter, Planning Director, proposed a preliminary budget for the Housing Advisory Board. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, was present for this portion of the meeting. Charity stated this was merely a proposal and had not been officially approved by anyone. Vicki suggested putting an additional line in the Planning budget noting that if the mills are increased there will be funds available. There was discussion about a secretarial position for the board, possibly someone already working for the County. Dan Allhands discussed a request from the housing board to borrow \$60,000 of the money that is being paid back to the County by the Ruby Valley Search and Rescue to help make the housing board a viable option. He noted that the money would be paid back with the intention of reusing it.

With no further business, the hearings concluded at 3:00 p.m.

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Ronald E. Nye, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: June 26, 2018

Minutes prepared by:

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Laurie Buyan, Administrative Assistant

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