

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARINGS  
April 30, 2021, Minutes**

On Friday, April 30, 2021, the Board of Madison County Commissioners conducted Preliminary Budget Hearings beginning at 10:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Courtroom of the Madison County Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Ron Nye and Jim Hart present. Chairman Dan Allhands was absent for personal reasons. Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the hearings were Dana Escott, Vicki Tilstra, and Shelly Burke.

**Fair Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Dana Escott, Fair Manager, met with the Board to review the proposed Fair Budget. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, was present for this portion of the meeting. Dana stated reviewed items that are being increased including \$50 for postage, \$1,500 for Fuel and \$1,000 for Utility Services, adding that she feels these increases are due to more use of the buildings in the winter. She also discussed the need for an increase of \$4,000 in Grounds and Improvements and an increase of \$3,000 in Building Maintenance, noting that between these two items there is an increase of \$7,000 and discussed projects that would be completed with the extra funds. Other items that were increased were Meals, Travel, and Lodging by \$500, Contract Services by \$2,000, and Capital Improvements by \$5,000 for the purchase of a tractor. The total increase in the Fair Budget request is \$17,050. Dana also provided a memo from the Fair Board recommending to increase the Fairgrounds Manager's hours during the months of January through March and October through December from 25 hours per week to 30 hours per week. This request would increase the annual hours from 1560 to 1680 and add an additional \$2,959.20 per year for wages, and employer costs would be \$227 for FICA and Medicare, \$357 for Worker's Comp, \$11 for Unemployment, \$260 for PERS, and \$1,243 for health insurance, for an overall increase of \$5,057 per year.

**Treasurers' Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Shelly Burke, Treasurer, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Treasurer's Office. Shelly listed items that her office does in addition to their regular duties, such as notaries, burn permits, off road permits, etc. and requested an extra 50 cents per hour for her staff because of these duties. She also distributed a proposal to increase longevity benefits according to the number of years served. She stated that new employees are given generous salaries while employees who have put in decades of time are overlooked. She stated an increase in longevity benefits will make people feel appreciated for the time they've dedicated to the County and that most won't get to the higher brackets, but those who do will be rewarded for time served. The remainder of her budget was unchanged.

With no further business, the hearings concluded at 11:15 a.m.

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Dan W. Allhands, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: May 18, 2021

Minutes prepared by:

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Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County