

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARINGS
May 12, 2022, Minutes**

On Thursday, May 12, 2022, the Board of Madison County Commissioners conducted Preliminary Budget Hearings beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Court Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Dan Allhands, Chairman, Ron Nye, and John Heckler present. Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant to the Board of Commissioners, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the hearings were Vicki Tilstra, Britani Allhands, Dale Grose, Duncan Hedges, David Welch, Tom Roberts, Emilie Saylor, and Chris Christensen.

Weed Department Preliminary Budget Hearing: Dale Grose, Weed Coordinator, presented and reviewed the preliminary budget for the Weed Department. Vicki Tilstra and Britani Allhands, Finance, were present for this portion of the meeting. Dale stated he would like to move Janie from a Clerk position to an Administrative Assistant, adding that she does more than other clerks. He would also like his wage increased and said he has been talking with Kila about it. Dale reviewed each line item and explained each increase or decrease. He noted that he added a new line item for boots with \$1,575 in it. He also noted that they received money from the Special Reservation Grant and would like to use that for a new 4-wheeler, which would add about \$2,500 to \$3,000. The final proposal was an overall decrease of \$5,925 in the Weed budget. Dale reviewed the Weed-BLM budget, the Weed Legacy budget, and the revenue budget. He explained an increase in the BLM budget due to receiving revenue before the end of the current fiscal year. Because that income wasn't spent, it was added to the new budget. Dan asked if the FWP would increase the amount they give us for fishing accesses due to the fact that they will be receiving additional funds from the marijuana tax. Dale presented a list of expected hours for each employee, with over-time expected for each of them. He asked if there was a slip tank around that he could use to fill the 4-wheelers. He also discussed the fact that he does a lot of the mechanic work himself and asked if there was a liability to the County for him doing this. Vicki will check the workers comp codes. Dan asked Dale to keep track of the hours he does mechanic work.

Ruby Valley Search and Rescue Preliminary Budget Hearing: David Welch and Tom Roberts, Ruby Valley Search and Rescue, presented and reviewed the preliminary budget for the Ruby Valley Search and Rescue. Vicki Tilstra and Britani Allhands, Finance, and Duncan Hedges, Sheriff's Department Captain, were present for this portion of the meeting. Tom explained that there are thirteen line items in this budget and nine of those remain unchanged. He noted that fuel is up so that line was increased by \$1,000. He noted that the amounts in building maintenance and capital improvements have swapped places. The bottom line on that is they are planning to get the roof fixed this year. They have been carrying \$20,000 of insurance money in the capital fund line and are shifting funds from the building maintenance line to the capital fund line to use for the roof and siding. They've also added \$10,000 just to make sure there's enough. He listed other items they intend to purchase from the small items of equipment line, such as radios, dry suits, PPE, head gear, and footwear. He noted that they have good volunteers so they need to make sure they have good equipment. Vicki noted that the building could be paid off in June, otherwise it would be done in December. There was discussion about equipment, a permanent liaison that has been assigned to them by the Sheriff's Department, and various trainings that will be conducted both on the Ruby side and the Madison Side. The overall increase in this budget is \$40,206.

Public Health Preliminary Budget Hearing: Emilie Saylor, Public Health Director, presented and reviewed the preliminary budget for the Public Health Department. Vicki Tilstra and Britani Allhands, Finance, were present for this portion of the meeting. Emilie stated that they're hoping to spend all of the budget this year now that they are fully staffed. She started by discussing a reduction to the inventory items line, stating she removed \$10,000 from that line so that it could be used elsewhere. She increased fuel by \$1,000 due to increasing costs, decreased tires because Dan found some for them, and increased utility services by \$2,000 because there is more usage and the cost has gone up. The current budget is over. Emilie explained that she increased the professional services line by \$12,000 with hopes to pay a medical director, like the nursing homes do. There was discussion

about paying a board member. Emilie will check into it a little bit more. She is leaving \$4,000 in building maintenance and would like to add a door between the medical room and the bathroom, and she increased training services by \$2,000. There was discussion about the tobacco prevention grant and if Beaverhead County pays any portion of it. Emilie stated that 100% of the grant comes to Madison County and covers all of the Tobacco Prevention Specialist's wages. It was noted that anything over the grant amount should be split with Beaverhead County. The overall increase in the Public Health budget is \$6,000.

County Attorney Preliminary Budget Hearing: Chris Christensen, County Attorney, presented and reviewed the preliminary budget for the County Attorney's Office. Vicki Tilstra and Britani Allhands, Finance, were present for this portion of the meeting. Chris stated that his requests are self-explanatory and reviewed a list of the items that are changing. He stated that the Deputy is entitled to another \$500 pursuant to statute; he increased publications and subscriptions by \$1,500 just because those costs have gone up; increased line item 363, machine maintenance, due to annual maintenance on the computer program that they use in their office, noting that the cost of the copy machine lease is also included in this line. He also discussed adding a part-time legal assistant for 3 days per week, 8 hours per day at \$18.97 per hour. The position would be working 24 hours per week for 52 weeks per year. He has hired the person. It's working well and he would like to make it a permanent position. It was a short-term position and he is requesting to make it permanent. Not including the salary lines, this budget is decreased by \$4,000. Chris also discussed the need to hire a special deputy attorney to prosecute a case that is a conflict of interest for his office. This will go on the next regular commission meeting agenda.

With no further business, the hearings concluded at 1:40 p.m.

Dan W. Allhands, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: June 19, 2022

Minutes prepared by:

Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant

Attest: _____
Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County