

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARINGS
May 15, 2020, Minutes**

On Friday, May 15, 2020, the Board of Madison County Commissioners conducted Preliminary Budget Hearings beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Madison County Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Dan Allhands, Chairman, Ron Nye, and Jim Hart present. Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the hearings were Chris Christensen, Jack Albrecht, Lucy Ennis, Vicki Tilstra, David Welch, and Tom Roberts.

County Attorney Preliminary Budget Hearing: Chris Christensen, County Attorney, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the County Attorney's Office. Chris stated that he would like an increase for Justin. He is currently at 72% to 73% of the County Attorney's salary and most deputies are at 80%. Chris would like to keep working him up on the pay scale. He discussed small items of equipment stating that it went over due to purchasing surveillance cameras. He is increasing that fund to purchase a software program for criminal case management. He gave a breakdown of the purchase for a total of \$14,849. Chris increased professional services by \$8,000 due to expenses related to upcoming trials, and increased machine maintenance by \$500. Jury and witness fees were decreased by \$10,000 because it was figured high in last year's budget due to the new victim/witness laws. The overall budget was increased by \$15,218.

Library Preliminary Budget Hearing: Jack Albrecht, Library Director, and Lucy Ennis, Library Board member, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Library. Jack stated that the Library will be opening on Monday morning but will not be having meetings from outside entities and there will be no story time. He said to date they have only spent 53% of the budget but haven't been there for a month and a half. He estimates the total will be up to about 80 to 85% by the end of the year. He pointed out a change in the salary/wage line for extra help, noting that they still want someone to manage the museum and help with archiving in the off season. He also noted a reduction to the professional services line and an increase in the equipment lease line. The proposed contract from Jim Jarvis to manage the museum for the summer was further discussed. It was noted that because it would be a contracted position, there would be no insurance and no withholding, etc. Jack also discussed donations from 3 Rivers Communications who is donating at least \$15,000 to each Library. With an increase of \$5,000 in salary/wages, a decrease of \$4,000 in professional services, and an increase of \$500 in equipment leases, the total increase in the Library budget would be \$1,500. Jack will talk to Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, about where funds will be taken from if the Jim Jarvis contract is approved. He informed the Board that the Library operating hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekday and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays. He said the computer use will be staggered so that when one computer is being used, the next one would be vacant.

Ruby Valley Search and Rescue Preliminary Budget Hearing: David Welch and Tom Roberts, Ruby Valley Search and Rescue, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Ruby Valley Search and Rescue. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, was present for this meeting. Commissioner Jim Hart left the meeting to take a phone call and was not present for this portion of the meeting. Tom Roberts stated that the Ruby Valley Search and Rescue Unit didn't use all of their budget last year. He sees this as a good thing but noted that they still have some outstanding expenses. They increased the small items of equipment line to ensure that all of the volunteers are adequately outfitted but decreased in other areas to compensate for this. They have not done much training due to the present circumstances. The bottom line is that they are requesting less this year than last year. The Board expressed appreciation for their efforts. Tom stated that they have added two new vehicles from military surplus. Payments for the jet boat and the building were discussed. David Welch stated that training is critical and they plan to conduct deep water training and jet boat training over the summer.

With no further business, the hearings concluded at 11:20 a.m.

Dan W. Allhands, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: June 9, 2020

Minutes prepared by:

Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant

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