

BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
March 16, 2020, Emergency Meeting Minutes

On Monday March 16, 2020, the Board of Madison County Commissioners conducted an emergency meeting which came to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Dan Allhands, Chairman, Ron Nye, and Jim Hart present. Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant to the Board of Commissioners, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Joe Brummell, Ryan Wolter, Brett Schriock, Bonnie O'Neill, Tommy Luksha, Lois Stephens, Vicki Tilstra, Alan Rohrback, Jillian Acosta, Lynda Holt, Shelly Burke, Melissa Brummell, Elizabeth Barnett, Sheriff Phil Fortner, Justin Gatewood, Craig Schroder, Margie Edsall, Tammy Mahlstedt, Alison Elser, Mark Brooks, Kacey Smart, Jani Flinn, Bob Bates, Alex Hogle, and Elijah Allen.

Cindy Purdue-Dolan, Field Representative for Senator Steve Daines, and Steve McNeece, Nursing Homes Administrator, participated in the meeting by telephone.

COVID-19 – Emergency Preparedness: The Board conducted a telephone conference with Cindy Purdue-Dolan, Field Representative for Senator Steve Daines, regarding how the Senator could assist Madison County with the COVID-19 pandemic. Melissa Brummell discussed Governor Bullock's recommendations, stating that schools have been closed for a two week period, and recommendations to decrease the chances of the virus spreading include social distancing, working from home if possible, and avoiding public areas and large groups of people. She added the goal is to keep the curve low so that hospitals don't get overrun with patients. Melissa also discussed how the virus is spread, stating the main means of transfer is by coughing or sneezing. She discussed symptoms such as a new cough, shortness of breath, and fever. She advised if anyone has these symptoms they should not come to work. Further discussion included limiting the number of public meetings, conducting web meetings, putting information regarding the virus on the County website, open meeting laws related to online meetings, discontinuing the Senior Citizen Bus during the pandemic, education and guidance related to the virus, creating a list of volunteers to assist people who are shut-in, grocery stores that will deliver, visitor restrictions and screening processes at the nursing homes, the capacity for isolated beds in local hospitals, the number of ventilators in the County, authority to close certain businesses, continuity plans for certain positions, plans for limited hours and/or rotating employees, using the reverse 911 system to send out notifications related to the virus, flexing shifts so that parents with children can alternate staying home with them, posting signage to alert the public to symptoms, etc., limiting people to certain areas of the building, putting hand sanitizers at all entrances, frequent cleaning of high traffic areas, emergency funding for nursing home staff, and writing up continuity plans for each office.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Dan W. Allhands, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: May 12, 2020

Minutes prepared by:

Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant to the
Board of Commissioners

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