

BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
March 27, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes

On Friday, March 27, 2020, a special meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 2:30 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Dan Allhands, Jim Hart, and Ron Nye present. Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk, was present to take minutes. Ryan Wolter, Information Systems Computer Support Specialist, was present to administer the public connection to the meeting via Webex.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Joe Brummell, Director of Emergency Management, Rob Wallingford, Deputy Director of Emergency Services, Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, Shelly Burke, Treasurer, and Jani Flinn, Grant Administrator. Webex and/or phone participants included Melissa Brummell, Public Health Nurse, Kacey Smart, Sanitarian's Assistant, Van Puckett, Sanitarian, Cindy Purdue-Dolan, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Steve Daines, and Steve Daines, U.S. Senator from Montana.

COVID-19 – Emergency Preparedness: Joe updated the Board on COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness. He reviewed weekly meeting schedules for Incident Command and Community Operations, unified command liaisons, State infection numbers, plans for accommodating the Governor's orders on public meetings and staying at home, and a rise in suicide attempts in neighboring counties. Joe and Melissa discussed volunteer coordination, and emphasized the importance of practicing social distancing and disinfecting, travel quarantines, and personal responsibility. Kacey and Van discussed Ennis restaurant enforcement, non-compliance and misinformation, public gatherings, and the importance of having a unified front.

Conference Call with Senator Steve Daines: The Board participated in a conference call with Senator Daines, Commissioners from Butte-Silverbow, Powell and Beaverhead Counties, and Cindy Perdue-Dolan.

- **Coronavirus Bill:** Senator Daines shared information about a \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus rescue package passed in the Senate, and signed by the President within the hour. Highlights of the bill included funding for hospitals and first responders, unemployment and small business assistance, and direct checks to Americans. He discussed what is included in the \$1.25 billion coming to Montana, including reimbursement of expenses caused by COVID-19 for state/county/smaller municipalities, \$10 million to tribes, and a portion going to agriculture. He is pursuing price protections for farmers and ranchers. The Senator took questions from each county, and ensuing discussion included ventilator supplies, financial strain on hospitals, mental health, reimbursements for senior programs and non-profits, daycare issues, and the Senator's success in helping stranded Montanans return to the U.S. from other countries.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Dan W. Allhands, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: May 19, 2020

Minutes prepared by:

Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk

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