

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARINGS
May 10, 2021, Minutes**

On Monday, May 10, 2021, the Board of Madison County Commissioners conducted Preliminary Budget Hearings beginning at 10:00 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 Paula McKenzie, Dale Grose, Britani Allhands, Pam Birkeland, and Kaleena Miller.

Clerk and Recorder, Elections, and Records Preservations Preliminary Budget Hearing: Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, met with the Board to review the proposed Clerk and Recorder, Elections, and Records Preservations budgets. Paula stated there are not many changes in the elections budget, noting that she did increase the salary line item for election judges slightly and everything else stayed the same. She discussed going over budget in inventory items and office supplies due to having to get extra items to accommodate for COVID but doesn't foresee it happening again. She reviewed the Clerk and Recorder budget, stating that the office supplies line in this budget was also over due to COVID but that it shouldn't go over again. They increased machine maintenance in the previous budget because they had to get the new scanner for the ballots. She stated that it worked fantastic and she is very happy they have it. She increased this line item a little this year because they still have to replace the big scanner. She is hoping it will make it another year, but leaving funds in the budget in case it doesn't. The only change to this budget is the Machine Maintenance line which is going from \$11,500 to \$12,000. Paula also discussed making Alison the Chief Deputy and also making Pam a Deputy as soon as possible. She would like to keep the salary lines the same and hopefully make Rebecca a Deputy by the end of the year. There was discussion about this being an elected official's decision but it was recommended to put the topic on the Commissioners' agenda so there is a public record of it. Paula discussed the Records Preservation budget, stating that she increased contract services from \$42,615 to \$87,000 for ARCA Search who will be scanning documents. Road records will be digitalized to make it easier to search them and there will also be a way to cross-reference documents. Because records are being digitalized, they will no longer need to microfilm documents. She stated that half fees were paid up front and the remainder will be paid when the project is complete. The Machine and Equipment line item will be reduced by \$80,000 to off-set the increase in Contract Services, so the overall budget will be decreased. She noted that there is currently \$151,902 in the Records Preservation budget; and that the Commission meeting minutes will also be scanned and digitalized.

Weed Preliminary Budget Hearing: Dale Grose, Weed Coordinator, presented the Board with the preliminary budget for the Weed Department. Britani Allhands, Finance Clerk, was present for this portion of the meeting. Dale discussed wages and salaries, stating that he is planning for 40 hours of overtime for himself, 40 hours for Janie, and 72 hours for the crews. He discussed items that he has reduced – Chemical is down by \$4,000 and is probably still too high, Operating Supplies is down by \$1,000, Fuel is down a little because they won't be doing highways, Contract Services is decreased by \$7,000. He did add \$2,500 for education for Gallatin Invasive Species donation for work that they do in the Big Sky area. The overall reduction was around \$11,000. Dale reviewed the BLM portion of the budget which did have several increases in various line items including more in salaries, fuel, and contract services. He noted that the increase in Contract Services is because they are hoping to do some aerial spraying. The total increase in this budget is around \$15,000. He also reviewed Legacy Weed which is used for the Jack Creek and Upper Ruby grant work, with a reduction of around \$5,000. Dale also reviewed the revenue budget and projected increases in various areas.

Mental Health Local Advisory Council Preliminary Budget Hearing: Pam Birkeland, Mental Health Local Advisory Council Secretary, met with the Board to review the Mental Health Local Advisory Council preliminary budget. Britani Allhands, Finance Clerk, was present for this portion of the meeting. Pam stated that Mental Health LAC is not asking for more or less, just moving some items around. She reviewed the line items that

would be changed. She also discussed the Crisis Response Program and the agreement with both hospitals to provide funds for the program. She stated she has reached out to both hospitals but has received no response. She also discussed books that were purchased for the libraries and again noted that numbers were moved but the bottom line remained the same.

Extension Preliminary Budget Hearing: Kaleena Miller, Ag Extension Agent, met with the Board to review the Extension preliminary budget. Britani Allhands, Finance Clerk, was present for this portion of the meeting. Kaleena thanked the Board for the new (used) Durango, adding that they put new tires on it and they are loving it. She stated that their proposed budget is exactly the same as last year other than moving some minor items around. She discussed which line items were being changed and why. She added that they do have funds remaining in the current budget and plan to spend the remainder of the budget responsibly and are requesting the same amount of funding for next year.

With no further business, the hearings concluded at 11:45 a.m.

Dan W. Allhands, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: May 18, 2021

Minutes prepared by:

Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant

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