



10:25 AM **Discussion and/or action Items Resolution 35-2023:**

Bill Todd made a motion to approve the signing of Resolution 35-2023: An Emergency Resolution of Gallatin County and Madison County Prohibiting All Open Burning in the Big Sky Resort Area District and Big Sky High Fire Hazard Area. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 10:25 AM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

10:30 AM **Big Sky Fire Station 3 Rural Improvement District Administrative Fee Discussion:** Dustin Tetrault, CFO Deputy Fire Chief, Greg Megaard, Fire Chief

Dustin Tetrault, Deputy Fire Chief, explained the benefits of a fire district RID to benefit a fire station at Spanish Peaks, Big Sky. This would be a dual county rural improvement district to offset the administrative costs passed down to taxpayers. The expected cost of building the fire station is ten million dollars and escalating each year as building costs rise. Morrison Maierle, Inc. have been helping look into cost and Dustin says they hope to keep administrative costs down. Dan Allhands asked about equipment costs. Greg Megaard, Fire Chief, explained that they have a reserve engine and feels it will be no problem staffing the station and Mr. Tetrault expanded on the fact that they are already planning ahead to have apparatus and staff ready to go. They hope to be up and running in 3-5 years. Vicki Tilstra asked who our contact was with Morrison Maierle, it is James Nicholson. Various funding was discussed, land apparatus and money has been donated. The RID will offset costs that donations are unable to cover. Mr. Tetrault asked that the RID be created to save taxpayer dollars, improve public protection and would ask the commissioners to see if the RID could be created to offset the administrative fees. There was discussion of the fire station structure and use of the different rooms within the building. The station will be located just across the county line in Gallatin County and the RID will be dual county for the benefit of each county. The logistics of collection of and distribution of funds is still being looked into. All parties will continue to look into the benefits of and creation process for the Rural Improvement District. More discussion will follow.

11:00 AM **Grants:** Craig Erickson, Great West Engineering

Craig Erickson updated on the invitation to bid for an electrician to do the electrical upgrades needed to support the refrigerator/freezer unit that was purchased for the Manor. Becky has the draft complete and will submit to the Dept of Commerce today. The submission deadline for proposals is July 25<sup>th</sup>. Once the RFP is complete it will be sent to the Gazette, Missoulian, Tribune and Madisonian per instructed. Also, as a requirement of the CBDG program, the RFP will be sent to 8 Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Companies. They will also, after researching, send the RFP to the 9 highest rated contractors listed in Idaho. Shawna asked if it was in the budget, could she publish in Helena paper? Bill Todd said yes if it was in the budget. Mr. Erickson added that he would reach out to Liberty Electric and Townsend Electric also. Erickson ended with the statement, we will find out on 25<sup>th</sup> how we did.

11:10 AM **Sanitarian:** Kacey Smart

Kacey Smart reported that Meghan has not gotten back to her yet, she has no news on license establishment. Ron Nye asked if Kacey was happy with Meghan's work, Kacey said Meghan did a great job but is not extending her contract. Bill Todd asked if there was nothing to report and Kacey verified, nothing to report.

11:15 AM **Creighton Block Building Purchase Discussion and Action Items:** David Buchler, County Attorney

David Buchler, County Attorney, suggests that the best way to continue with the purchase of the Creighton Block Building in Virginia City, would be for the Commissioners to designate one commissioner to negotiate with the seller as to price along with terms or contingencies and then the buyer would execute a buy/sell agreement with the seller. That agreement would then be brought back before the Commissioners and public at another public meeting to discuss the negotiated terms and if that was agreeable it would be up to the commissioners to decide how to move forward. This is the procedure David Buchler would use to start the process. Ron Nye is not in support of buying the Creighton building at this time. He would like to see more proof that the building is stable. Bill Todd suggest that the process could be used to both review the information on the building supplied by the seller and open negotiations concurrently. He has seen no documentation that the building is unsound at this time.

**Questions and statements made:** why is the county commission considering buying this building instead of using this money to work on the courthouse? Jim Kleis states he has done work in the building and that the east wall is unstable. Will there be testing done in the building to rule out mold, who will move into the building, parking concerns. Justin Gatewood asks if the property is currently on the market, is there an agreement on price currently, will the county disclose/summarize information received on the building. Are there any usable rooms in the courthouse? Concerns in regards to plumbing, electrical and infrastructure problems with the Creighton Block Bldg. Can this bldg. even be used as a public building? Is there an engineering report, can the schoolhouse be used instead, have any other buildings been considered?

**Answers and discussion:** The money used to purchase the Creighton Block Building would come from a Public Health Grant and cannot be used for anything else. No other buildings are being considered at this time, the building is not on the market but was brought to counties attention by the seller, there is no agreement at this time. The negotiation process would be used to disclose any problems with building and would take care of answering most of the questions asked, an appraisal would be done for price and the county could not pay more for the building than the appraised price result. The schoolhouse is not being considered at this time, there are no usable rooms in the courthouse. The Sanitarian office could move into the building along with Public Health to supply anonymity. The Courthouse will be worked on, but that is a totally independent issue. Emilie Saylor explained that the building was brought up by her originally, knowing she had grant money and Public Health need more space. Bill Todd and David Buchler expanded on the fact that this is still in the early stages and this process would be used to gain the information needed to make a decision that will then be brought in front of another public meeting for more discussion. There is no promise of an agreement at this time.

Dan Allhands moves to appoint Bill Todd as the negotiating commissioner, Bill Todd cannot second the motion, Ron Nye declines to second, Dan Allhands states the motion dies without a second and the commissioners move on.

11:20 AM **Madison County Salary Requests Discussion and/or Action Items:** Vicki Tilstra, Finance

Commissioners will go through the salary requests one at a time.

**IT -** Bill Todd is more inclined to focus on the COLA increase across the board instead of giving individual raises at this time, Ron Nye seconded. Dan Allhands made the motion to focus on COL increase instead of raises at this time. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 11:50 AM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

**HR –** Bill Todd feels this should be advertised since it is more a new position. Bill Todd made the motion to advertise the position of director of HR. Seconded by Ron Nye. With slight discussion Bill Todd withdrew the motion and the commissioners moved on.

**Grant Writer** – follow COL increase

**Commissioner assistant C**– follow COL increase

**Communications department** – follow COL increase

**Library** – Dan and Bill discussed the fact that Christina Koch has procured her Library of Science Masters Degree and as such Bill Todd made the motion to approve moving Christina to top admin scale for a salary increase of \$3,372.20 per year. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 11:53 AM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

**Victims Advocate** – Bill Todd made a motion to approve the Victims Advocate increase to 40 hours per week, \$8,000 to come out of County Attorney Budget line 357. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 11:54 AM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

**Senior Citizen** – Bill Todd made the motion to increase the senior citizen bus driver wage to \$21.00/hour. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 11:55 AM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

**Weed** – Bill Todd made a motion to approve the weed departments overtime request of 20 hours per staff member and overtime request of 40 hours for Dale and Jani. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 11:56 AM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

**School Superintendent** – Bill Todd made a motion to increase the school superintendent pay period hours by 4 additional hours per pay period. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 11:57 AM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

**Nursing Home Night Shift** – Bill Todd made a motion to approve the nursing home night shift wage increase of CNA's \$1.50, LPN's \$2.50 and RN's \$2.50 per hour. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 11:58 AM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

**Facilities** – Bill Todd made a motion to approve the facilities extra help for winter 14 hour per week at \$15.00/hour. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 11:59 AM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

**Discussion of hiring a 30-40 hour per week civil attorney** –

Bill Todd started the discussion of hiring a 30-40 hour per week civil attorney at \$94,925.52 per year. Bill believes we are on the cusp of this being a necessity. David Buchler spoke in favor of the position, stating the importance of having someone with the legal expertise to handle the specialty of land use litigation. David would prefer to have a Madison County employee to cover this instead of using contract services to save expenses. Ron Nye asked if there were specific land use attorneys with Bill and David answering yes.

**Cost of Living Increase** – no discussion at this time, this issue was discussed at a previous meeting.

**Public Health Director** – Bill Todd made a motion to increase the public health director salary by 10% over the highest paid staff member. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 12:00 PM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

11:35 PM **Health Department Discussion and Action Items:** Emilie Saylor

Emilie explains the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Task Order.

Bill Todd made a motion to approve Task Order #24-07-6-11-033-0 for Public Health Test Program. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 12:05 PM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

1:00 PM **Closed Session Human Resources:** Jennifer Westfall

3:20 PM Discussion and/or Action Items

Bill Todd made a motion to prohibit the foundation from incurring liabilities on behalf of the county, this includes Fair Foundation Board or Nursing Home Foundation Board. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three Commissioners voted in favor at 3:21 PM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

Bill Todd made a motion to prohibit county staff from assisting any foundation with using county resources or county time. Seconded by Ron Nye. No Further discussion followed. All three commissioners voted in favor at 3:22 PM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

Bill Todd made a motion to remove Ron Nye as the liaison with the Fair Board. Seconded by Ron Nye. No further discussion followed. All three commissioners voted in favor at 3:23 PM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

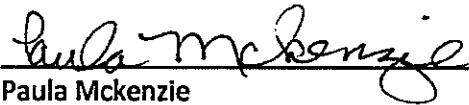
Bill Todd made a motion to compel Ron Nye to recuse himself from the Fair Foundation Board and not engage in any further meetings. Seconded by Dan Allhands. No Further discussion followed. Bill and Dan voted in favor, Ron abstained from the vote at 3:24 PM. Dan Allhands, Chairman carried the motion.

Bill Todd stated for the record that there was a violation of the procurement policy for the purchase of a pick-up truck for the road district under Mr. Nye and it was a violation of the sole source procurement section indicating that written permission was required when pursuing the sole source of any item over a certain dollar amount.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25

**Next Meeting:** The next regular Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday June 27, 2023 beginning at 10:00 AM on the second floor in the Motor Vehicle Office in the Administrative Building in Virginia City, MT.

Minutes taken by:



Paula Mckenzie

Madison County Clerk & Recorder

Date Approved: July 18, 2023



Dan W. Allhands, Chairman

Board of Madison County Commissioners



Attest: Paula Mckenzie, Madison County Clerk & Recorder

