

BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
August 4, 2020, Meeting Minutes

The Board reconvened at 4:10 p.m. in the Second Floor Courtroom of the Administrative Office Building, with Commissioners Dan Allhands, Jim Hart, and Ron Nye present. Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk, was present to take minutes.

Ambulance Financial Meeting: Alan Rohrback, Madison Valley Medical Center CEO, Landon Dybdal, Ruby Valley Medical Center CEO, Dustin Tetrault, Big Sky Fire Department Deputy Chief, and Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, met with the Board to continue discussions about financing ambulance services in the County. Jim reviewed items to be discussed or decided in today's meeting – first, whether to do a mill levy or a fee. He said it seems more logical to assess a fee since a service-fee area can legally be created, but an ambulance district cannot. Discussion included fee amounts, cutting out specific areas such as Big Sky, clarifying boundary lines on a map, whether a fee should be on a ballot, how to manage the fee area, comparisons to special districts, governance and structure, advisory boards versus other types of boards, different types of funds, and involving the Department of Revenue. The second item to be discussed was whether to try to get this on the ballot in November, 2020, or wait until the following May election. It was agreed that May, 2021, is the more reasonable goal due to the time involved in preparing a solid, county-wide campaign that will succeed. Discussion included the importance of voter perception, how to base an annual fee (per dwelling, household, parcel, etc.), whether businesses should pay, residents and non-residents, the experiences of other counties, cost effectiveness, incentive and benefits for residents, and having the County contribute supplemental funds. Alan noted the concept of having a county-wide fee area, with funding distributed to two ambulance services and decided upon by the Commissioners, is an interesting one to work out. Additional discussion included the need to further evaluate using a mill levy versus a fee, speculation regarding public acceptance of fee amounts, and having County-wide representation on whatever type of board is eventually established. Next steps were discussed, and the next Ambulance Financial Meeting was scheduled during the regular Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next meeting: The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Second Floor Courtroom of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana.

Dan W. Allhands, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: August 18, 2020

Minutes prepared by:

Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk

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