

BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
August 30, 2022, Meeting Minutes

On Tuesday, August 30, 2022, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Second Floor Court Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Dan Allhands, Ron Nye, and John Heckler present. Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Emilie Sayler, Pam Birkeland, Tommy Luksha, Paula McKenzie, Hannah Brook, Vicki Tilstra, Britani Allhands, Craig Schroder, Christina Koch, Jack Albrecht, and Kila Shepherd. Ryan Wolter, IT Support Specialist, administered the Webex connection. Those in attendance via Webex included Jeremiah Theys, Kathy Thompson, Courtne Fisher, Hanna Dietrich, Tammy, Karl Yakawich, A.M. Welles, Tech Support, Allison Veland, Laurie Buyan, Kevin Germain, Jennifer Martins, Abby Thomas, Mike Callahan, Cori Koenig, PH, IT Support, and Gail Nelson.

Bill Todd, District 3 Commissioner Candidate, was present to observe the meeting.

Public Health: Emilie Sayler, Public Health Director, met with the Board to discuss the following topics.

- **COVID Update including Nursing Homes Status:** Emilie Sayler, Public Health Director, updated the Board regarding COVID status for Madison County and the state. The County has had a total of 2,171 confirmed positive cases, currently has 17 active cases, 2,131 people have recovered, and there have been 23 fatalities. There is 1 active hospitalization, bringing total hospitalizations to 135. Montana has 2,042 active cases, 304,169 confirmed positive cases to date, 298,623 people have recovered, there have been 3,504 COVID fatalities, and active hospitalization are currently 89. Total number of hospitalizations is 13,058. Emilie reviewed daily new cases in the County, State maps of active cases, cumulative cases, and vaccination information, noting we are seeing a decrease in community spread within Madison County. Madison Valley Manor has 21 residents Madison Valley Manor has 1 resident in quarantine due to CMS admission requirement and not due to COVID and there are no staff in isolation. The County transmission rate is high. Testing exempt staff and travel staff is done daily prior to entry. Testing twice a week for staff that are not up to date with recommended vaccinations. Visitation is allowed with testing and screening prior to entry. Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center has 21 residents with no COVID cases. Vaccination rates are 95% for staff, and 96% for residents. County transmission rate is high. Visitation is allowed.
- **2022-2023 PHEP Task Order:** Emilie Sayler, Public Health Director, is requesting the approval of the PHEP Grant Task Order for the Public Health Department. Following discussion, Ron Nye move to approve Task Order 23-07-6-11-033-0 to the Master Contract effective July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2026 between the State of Montana, Department of Public Health and Human Services, and Madison County as presented. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Madison Valley Manor request to Hire: Allison Veland, Madison Valley Manor Administrator, via Webex, requested approval for hire of Janea Olson, as a full-time Dietary Cook/Aide. Following discussion and reviewing pay scale rate, John Heckler moved to approve MVM New Hire Janea Olson a Dietary Cook/Aide at the rate of \$18.17 an hour, as presented. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: There were no minutes provided to approve.

Claims: The Board approved claims.

Housing Board Appointment: The Housing Board is recommending David O'Connor be considered for appointment to the Housing Advisory Board. John Heckler moved to appoint David O'Connor to the Madison

County Housing Advisory Board based on the recommendation from the Housing Board for a three-year term that will expire on December 31, 2024. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Road Review Committee Resignation: The Board reviewed the notice of resignation from Mark Sant from the Road Review Committee effective August 30, 2022. John Heckler moved to accept Mark Sant's Road Review Committee Resignation. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

School Transportation and Retirement – Budget and Mills: Pam Birkeland, Superintendent of Schools, presented and reviewed the mills for retirement and transportation including each school's requirement. Pam pointed out two special ed co-ops where the county pays a proportionate share of the teacher retirements. After discussion, John Heckler moved to approve the County School Mills for Retirement and Transportation. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Update on ArcaSearch: Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, informed the Board that ArcaSearch has scheduled Madison County starting on September 9, 2022. They plan on microfilming for sixteen working days. This should finish up taking the pictures of the older books and making it easier to research and read recorded documentation.

Sheridan Park District Board Resignation: The Board reviewed a notice of resignation from Charles Rossiter. Ron Nye moved to accept the resignation of Charles Rossiter from the Sheridan/Alder Park District Board as presented. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

TRMCC Rural Development Loan Reporting Documents: The Board reviewed the report for the addition of the Recreation Room and eating area at Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center. The report showed that Madison County will be able to meet the obligation to the loan. Following discussion John Heckler moved to approve the Statement of Budget, Income and Equity for the United States Department of Agriculture for the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center Rural Development Loan as presented. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Grants: Hannah Brook, Grant Writer met with the Board to discuss the following topics. Jeremiah Theys and Karl Yakawich, Great West Engineering, participated via Webex.

- **Jack Creek Road-Payment Application #6:** Hannah Brook and Jeremiah Theys presented Contractor's Application for Payment #6 for the Jack Creek Road Project. Following the discussion, John Heckler moved to approve the Contractor's Application for Payment #6 to A.M. Welles for work on Jack Creek Road for the amount of \$266,169.40. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Cliff Wade Project/WFL Funding:** Hannah and Karl discussed the bid amount and a potential request for additional funds to cover the extra amount that exceeded the original budget which was established in 2016 for the project. Karl and Hannah met with Western Federal Lands to discuss the additional funding. A request would have to be done for the next fiscal year and the funds would not be available until December 2022. WFL would move forward with a request of the funds and get a preapproval within the next couple of weeks.
- **Discussion of Phase II work on Jack Creek Road:** This item has been postponed until a later date.
Jack Creek Road Bridge #5: Jeremiah discussed whether or not to add the construction of Jack Creek Road Bridge #5. The original project budget did not include Bridge #5 and would be an additional added expense. Following discussion, the Board decided to further review.

Sheriff's Office Remodel Budget: Craig Schroder, Acting Sheriff, met with the Board to discuss that the Office Remodel is going to be over the approved Budget amount of \$40,000.00. Total cost will be about \$50,000.00. Following discussion, Ron Nye moved to approve the addition of \$10,000.00 to the Construction Budget for the remodel of the Sheriff's Office. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Amended Plat and Quit Claim Deeds for Twin Bridges Clinic: Following discussion and review, Ron Nye moved to approve the Quit Claim Deed as presented for transferring County property to the Ruby

Valley Clinic part of the Ruby Valley Medical Center. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Final Budget Hearing: Chairman Dan Allhands opened the Final Budget Hearing at 1:00 p.m. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, and Britani Allhands, Finance Office Assistant, were present for this portion of the meeting. The Board discussed and reviewed the budget and hearing no public comment the hearing was closed at 1:12 p.m. Ron Nye moved to approve the Final Budget as presented. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Pace Archivist Position: Jack Albrecht, Thompson-Hickman Library Director, and Christina Koch, Library Assistant, requested the Board's approval to post a notice for the Pace Archivist Position. Following discussion and review, Ron Nye moved to approve an Archivist for the Pace Archives as presented. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Off system Bridge Discussion: Kathy Thompson, Staley Engineering and Associates, discussed the Off-System Bridge study with the Counties. The reason for the study is for applying for a grant that would be used to repair/replace off-system bridges. Jeremiah Theys, Great West Engineering will send Kathy the Madison County Bridge Evaluation documentation, which was done earlier this year.

Request to Purchase Mini Van for Senior Citizens: This item has been postponed until a later date.

Closed Meeting – Personnel: This portion of the meeting is a closed session to discuss personnel issues. Minutes and recording were delivered to the County Attorney's Office.

Calendars: The Board reviewed calendars.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Next meeting: The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Court Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana.

Dan W. Allhands, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: October 18, 2022

Minutes prepared by:

Shawna Lutgen, Commissioners' Clerk

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