

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 8, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

On Tuesday, September 8, 2020, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 9:37 a.m. in the Second Floor Courtroom of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Jim Hart and Ron Nye present. Commissioner Dan Allhands was absent for personal reasons. Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Joe Brummell, Bonnie O'Neill, Dave Reintsma, Lynda Holt, Alex Hogle, Phil Fortner, Kraig Pester, Kipp Proctor, Brian Jensen, Adam Gilbertson, Vicki Tilstra, Roy Hill, Justin Ekwall, and several who participated via phone/Webex. Ryan Wolter, IT Support Specialist, was present to administer the public link to the meeting via Webex.

**Approval of Minutes:** Following review, Jim Hart moved to approve the August 11, 2020, Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes with corrections. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Claims:** The Board approved claims.

**Public Health Office/DES – COVID-19 Update:** Joe Brummell, Director of Emergency Management, met with the Board to present updates on COVID-19 and local fire situations. Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, was present for this portion of the meeting. Joe reviewed COVID cases in the County: there are currently two active cases, a total of 95 confirmed so far, no active hospitalizations, and no new out-of-state cases reported. The State has had 8,316 confirmed positives, including 895 in the past week; 118 fatalities, which included 14 in the past week; 163 active hospitalizations; and 6,246 people have recovered. Nationwide there have been 6.3 million cases confirmed, and 189,000 deaths. He reviewed long term care statistics, noting that one case was identified within the staff at TRMCC, and testing for staff and resident is being conducted again this week. No cases have been identified at MVM or Home Park Assisted Living. Madison County sent from fifth to seventh in the State in cases per 100,000, and Joe said we are seeing faster turnaround for COVID testing. He said cases from the 430,000-person Sturgis rally are being traced to multiple states, including Montana, with one known fatality. Two counties in Montana are still without confirmed cases. Schools in several areas, including MSU in Bozeman, have reported cases since the start of school this fall. Joe reviewed the County's Incident Command Team priorities, upcoming meetings, and the weather outlook. He reported on a fire at Cataract Dam that occurred over the weekend, burning 25 acres – helicopters and smoke jumpers were able to contain it before 8 inches of snow fell, and an individual was arrested for starting the fire which, Joe noted, took a lot of time, money and assets to contain. The Bridger Foothills fire near Bozeman is getting a lot of attention, there have been evacuations and homes have been lost.

**Bid Openings for TRMCC Roof Project:** The Board received one sealed bid for the TRMCC Roof Project. Dave Reintsma, TRMCC Maintenance, Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, and Lynda Holt, Communications Officer, were present for this portion of the meeting. Jim opened the bid from LMCH of Twin Bridges, which totaled \$186,339.45, and suggested the Board take more time to review the bid. Dave noted that this company could start work on the project as soon as Monday, September 14, 2020, and said they would replace the materials that are on the roof now. Bonnie said the insurance check was just over \$180,000, so the County's out-of-pocket expense won't be too high. The topic was continued to Thursday, September 10, 2020.

**Communications Department:** Lynda Holt, Communications Officer, met with the Board to discuss the following topic. Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, was present for this portion of the meeting.

- **Asphalt for Dispatch Driveway and Parking Area:** Lynda discussed the known problems with the parking lot/driveway area that is slippery and treacherous in the winter, noted that people come and go

at various times in every 24-hour period. Discussion ensued about the challenge of improving such a small area, and several options were discussed, including asphalt, road-grade gravel, washed gravel that doesn't get slippery, ribbed concrete, or reducing the slope. The Board decided to go and look at the area this week with Lynda the Maintenance Manager, and include someone from the road crew, to determine the best solution.

Craig Erickson, Great West Engineering, and Becky Lawson, SMA, met with the Board via Webex to discuss the following topics. Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, was present for this portion of the meeting.

- **Request for Reimbursement of CDBG Funds – MVM Project:** Craig reviewed the invoice from Northwest Pipe Fittings for two new boilers for MVM, and the subsequent request to draw \$30,500 from the CDBG grant fund. Based on the recommendations of Great West Engineering and SMA, Jim Hart moved to approve the request for funds from the CDBG grant in the amount of \$30,500, to cover the cost of two new boilers for Madison Valley Manor. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Madison Valley Manor Project Update:** Becky confirmed that the MVM project plans have been uploaded to the State, and she is also scheduled to review the plans with DPHHS. As soon as the Department of Commerce gives the OK, the advertisement for bid will go out to the Bozeman Chronicle and the Madisonian, and will be uploaded to the DOT website where general contractors from around the State can look at the plans. She reviewed how the walk-throughs for contractors will be conducted to work around COVID restrictions at the facility. Craig verified with the Board that communications between everyone involved in the project are working well. Ron asked about the generator, which Becky said is included in the bid documents.

**Planning:** Alex Hogle, Planning Director, met with the Board to discuss the following topics.

- **Amended Plat of Lot 1230 & Open Space A-2 of Yellowstone Mountain Club Phase 1 & 2:** This topic was postponed to a later date.
- **Amended Plat of Lot 21, 22, & Open Space 1 of Spanish Peaks Phase 2:** Alex reviewed the background for an amended plat in Spanish Peaks Phase 2 and explained that the owners are aggregating two residential lots and a small portion of a designated open space, to create one large recreational/tennis area. He cited all the legal work that has been completed, stated that he sees nothing of concern with the plan, and therefore recommends approval. Based on the recommendation of the Planning Director, Jim Hart moved to approve the amended plat – boundary line adjustment and aggregation of Lots 21 and 22, and Open Space 1, of Spanish Peaks Phase 2, resulting in the newly-configured Lot 21A and OS-1A. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**National Register Sign for Courthouse:** Following review, Jim Hart moved to approve the wording for the National Register Sign for the Courthouse. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Request to Extend County Storage Shed Rental:** The Board considered a request to extend storage shed time to the end of the year. After discussion, Jim Hart moved to approve Ed Tezak's request to extend his County storage shed lease to December 31, 2020, in consideration of concerns for health. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Resolution 33-2020, Amending Salary Resolution 19-2020 Attachment B:** Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, met with the Board to discuss amending Salary Resolution 19-2020 Attachment B. Phil Fortner, Sheriff, was present for a portion of this topic. Bonnie explained the corrections she was asked to make to shift differential hours, and a change to the wording about incentive pay for emergency call-in shifts. Based on the recommendation of the Nursing Home Administrator, Jim Hart moved to approve Resolution 33-2020, a resolution to amend the Resolution 19-2020 setting salaries for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, amending Attachment "B," indicating changes in time, and on-call additional pay. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Purchase of Mobile Bath Lift System with Scale – Madison Valley Manor:** The Board reviewed a quote from RehabMart for a mobile bath lift system for Madison Valley Manor. Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative

Officer, and Phil Fortner, Sheriff, were present this portion of the meeting. After review, Jim Hart moved to approve the purchase of a mobile bath lift system with scale for Madison Valley Manor, for the negotiated price of \$6,855.91. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Sheriff's Office:** Phil Fortner, Sheriff, met with the Board to discuss the following topic.

- **Jail Contract with Jefferson County:** Phil explained the offer from Jefferson County to increase the number of jail beds reserved for Madison County from two to four. He said most court appearances at this point are virtual. He also noted that it's getting more and more difficult for various reasons to transport prisoners, but these agreements are necessary. Our agreement with Gallatin County and the number of prisoners currently housed there was also discussed. Based on the recommendation of the Sheriff, Jim Hart moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement for adult detention services between Jefferson County, Montana, and Madison County, Montana, for four beds reserved at \$65 per bed per day, or \$7,908 per month. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Calendars:** The Board reviewed calendars.

**Bid Openings for District 2 Motor Grader:** The Board received two sealed bids for the District 2 motor grader. Kraig Pester, Tractor & Equipment Co., Kipp Proctor, Brian Jensen, and Adam Gilbertson, RDO Equipment, and Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, were present for this portion of the meeting. Jim opened the bids from CAT and from RDO/John Deere, and briefly reviewed bids, lease and purchase options, exceptions, and prices contained in each. To give the Board additional time to review and compare the bids, this topic was continued to Thursday, September 10, 2020.

At 1:30 p.m., the meeting was continued to Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, September 10, 2020:** The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Courtroom of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Jim Hart and Ron Nye present. Commissioner Dan Allhands was absent for personal reasons. Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk, was present to take minutes.

Roy Hill, District 3 Road Foreman, Dave Reintsma, TRMCC Maintenance, Justin Ekwall, Deputy County Attorney, Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer, and Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, were present for all or portions of the meeting.

**Bids for District 2 Motor Grader (continued):** The Board reviewed the two bids received for the District 2 motor grader. Discussion ensued about leases, rotation schedules, costs for leasing and buying, the specific equipment needs and preferences of each road district, the possibility of swapping equipment between districts, and the legal requirements of the bid process.

**Bids for TRMCC Roof Project (continued):** The Board discussed the bid for the TRMCC roof project. Vicki reviewed available funds, insurance coverage was discussed, as well as how to cover the cost if insurance doesn't cover the entire thing. Following discussion, Jim Hart moved to accept the bid submitted by LMCH Construction and Building Materials, Inc., as presented for \$186,339.45, for the roofing project at TRMCC. Ron Nye seconded the motion. Discussion included whether the project would qualify for using leftover emergency funds. All voted aye and the motion carried. Dave said he would notify the company so they could start work on Monday, September 14, 2020.

**Bids for District 2 Motor Grader (continued):** Discussion continued about leasing equipment versus purchasing, rotation schedules for leased equipment to equalize each district, the benefits of having the same brand of equipment in each district, specifications, new features and options, how to legally turn older equipment around whether leased or owned, and future sustainability. Calls were made to Kraig Pester, Tractor & Equipment Co., and Kipp Proctor, RDO Equipment, for their ideas and input. Following discussion, this topic was continued to the next regular Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

With no further business, this portion of the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

**Next meeting:** The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Second Floor Courtroom of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana.

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Dan W. Allhands, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: October 6, 2020

Minutes prepared by:

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Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Mumme, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County