

BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
September 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes

On Tuesday, September 13, 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 Suzanne Powers, Pete Rossiter, Eli Thompson, Abby Thomas, Justin Gatewood, Andy Thomas, and Dan Alderman. Ryan Wolter, IT Support Specialist, administered the Webex connection. Those in attendance via Webex included Joe Brummell, A.M. Welles, Michelle Schriock, Heidi Woods, Allison Veland, Public Health, Laurie Buyan, Emilie Saylor, Gail Nelson, Beth Famiglietti, Jennifer Westfall, Kate Rose, Hannah Brook, Jani Flinn, Jennifer Martens, IT Support, Edward A VHalén, Bruce Koblish, and AT.

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

County Roads Update:

- **Adobe Town Road** - Abby Thomas, Virginia City Resident, Andy Thomas, Virginia City Resident, Eli Thompson, Virginia City Resident, and Justin Gatewood, Virginia City Mayor, met with the Board to discuss holes encroaching the right of way easement, concrete poured, and structures put up on Adobe Town Road. Dan Allhands noted that the Board has been advised not to make comment without Council present. Also, discussion included providing a possible alternate route going around Adobe Town Road. Pete Rossiter, Garnet Mine Forman was present for this portion of the meeting.
- **Bertha Kennett Project** – Dan Allhands noted the update on the Bertha Kennett project is the on-ground survey is done and they are working on documentation. Dr. Dan Alderman, Minority Owner of the Wapiti Hills Gold Mine, was present for this portion of the meeting. There was discussion about locked gates preventing access to BLM. Once the survey and documentation has been completed and reviewed the County will be able to determine whether or not the existing roads that are currently locked are private roads or if one is in fact a County Road.
- **Granite Creek Road** – Andy Thomas, Virginia City Resident, inquired about where the Main Fork of Granite Road and the East Fork of Granite Creek Road review was currently at. Following discussion Granite Creek Road Petition is being reviewed by the Land Use Attorney and Legal Counsel.

COVID Update including Nursing Home Status: Emilie Saylor, Public Health Director, updated the Board regarding COVID status for Madison County and the state. The County has had a total of 2,192 confirmed positive cases, currently has 13 active cases, 2,157 people have recovered, and there have been 22 fatalities. There are no active hospitalizations, bringing total hospitalization to 136. Montana has 1,562 active cases, 306,709 confirmed positive cases to date, 301,638 people have recovered, there have been 3,509 COVID fatalities, and active hospitalization are currently 71. Total number of hospitalizations is 13,160. 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 no residents or 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 20 residents with no COVID cases. Vaccination rates are 95% for staff, and 96% for residents. County transmission rate is high. Visitation is allowed.

Contract for DEQ Approval: This item has been postponed until a later date.

Claims: The Board approved claims.

Airports: Hannah Brook, Airport Board Secretary, met with the Board to discuss Ennis and Twin Bridges Airport wish list Items. Each year each airport creates a wish list that is approximately five years in advance FAA gives approximately \$150,000 to each airport each year. In addition, Twin Bridges Airport has received this year an additional \$110,000 and Ennis Airport has received an additional \$159,000.

- **Ennis Big Sky Airport Capital Improvement Plan** – Hannah discussed the Ennis Big Sky Airport Capital Improvement Plan Fiscal Year 2023 through Fiscal Year 2029. The 2023 suggested items are to acquire snow removal equipment, land for development, and construct taxi lanes. The 2024 suggested item is to acquire land for development. The 2025 suggested item is preventative pavement maintenance of all airside pavements. No FAA AIP projects are planned for 2026. The 2027 suggested items are the installation of apron flood lighting, paving the airport access road and small parking area, and construct a minimal pilot lounge/terminal building that may be utilized by all pilots. John Heckler moved to approve the Ennis Big Sky Airport Capital Improvement Plan. Dan Allhands seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Ruby Valley Field Capital Improvement Plan** – Hannah discussed the Ruby Valley Field Capital Improvement Plan Fiscal Year 2023 through 2029. The 2023 suggested items are to complete pavement maintenance on existing airside pavements, widen runway to 75 feet, relocate/install MIRL, widen turnarounds, relocate PAPI, construct minor apron expansion, and construct hangar access taxi lane for Group II aircraft. No FAA AIP projects are planned for 2024. The 2025 suggested item is to construct a paved access road to provide a reliable year around access to the airport. No FAA AIP projects are planned for 2026. The 2027 suggested item is to acquire land for development. The 2028 suggested item is to complete pavement maintenance. No FAA AIP projects are planned for 2029. Ron Nye moved to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for the Ruby Valley Field. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Log Sheet Policy: This item has been postponed until a later date.

Planning Board Appointment: This item has been postponed until a later date.

District 1 Road Crew Hire: The Board reviewed new hire request for District 1 Road Department, Road Technician position. John Heckler moved to transfer James Schrank currently with District 3 Road Department to District 1 Road Department with the same pay rate. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Sheridan ARPA MOA: Hannah Brook, Grant Writer, requested a signature on the Subrecipient Agreement between Madison County, and the Town of Sheridan regarding use of American Recovery Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds. John Heckler moved to approve the Subrecipient Agreement between Madison County and the Town of Sheridan regarding use of American Recovery Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds for Water System Infrastructure Improvements Project – Catalog of Financial Domestic Assistance (CFDA) 21.027 in the amount of \$105,000. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Personnel Policy Manual Recommended Changes: Tara Redfield, Employee Policies Committee, discussed the Draft Changes to the Personnel Manual. Following discussion, this item will be postponed pending the review of the County Attorney and MACO Human Resource Specialist.

Boundary Adjustment of Lots 136, VC Ranches 1, and Tract 314 VC Ranches 2, Amended Plat: Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder presented the Amended Plat for approval. Ron Nye moved to approve the Boundary Adjustment of Lots 136, VC Ranches 1, and Tract 314 VC Ranches 2 as an Amended Plat. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Approval of Titan Invoice for USDA Forest Service Work completed on Goose Fire/Baer Project: The Board reviewed the invoice from Titan, Inc. in the amount of \$40,135.00. Following discussion John Heckler moved to approve the Invoice from Titan, Inc. for doing the Forest Service road improvements in the amount of \$40,135.00. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

DES: Joe Brummell, Director of Emergency Management, met with the Board to discuss the following items.

- **DES Update:** Joe provided the dates for all the upcoming meetings for DES. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan Grant that was applied for to update the DES plan has been denied by the DNRC. The DNRC is now assisting with the Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant application. This is also a grant that would help with our Wildfire Protection Plan. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan is still on-going at this time. The DES met with the Twin Bridges Airport Committee and reviewed the Airplane Annex. DES is in the process of updating the Airplane Annex. Current and active fires in the State of Montana is 41, year total is 1,786, and total acres burned is 116,578.
- **Emergency Management Performance Grant Obligating Document:** Joe presented the Grant for approval. Ron Nye moved to approve the Emergency Management Performance Grant. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Advertisement for Motor Grader Bids – Twin Bridges: Following review, Ron Nye moved to approve the Advertising for Motor Grader Bids for Road District 2. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Recommendation for Ennis Planning Board Member: Town of Ennis is proceeding with the formation of the Ennis Planning Board requested a recommendation for a Madison County Representative on their Board. The Board will recruit for a member to sit on the Ennis Planning Board.

On-Site Planning and GIS Services Proposal: Scott Hazelton, Hyalite Engineers, presented a proposal to help with the On-Site Planning and GIS Services that are currently needed for the Districts. Following discussion, the Board agreed to move forward with contracting Hyalite Engineers.

Nursing Homes New Hires and/or Transfers:

- **Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center:** Per email from Gail Nelson, Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center Administrator, she is requesting approval for the hire of Zach Elser as a Dietary Cook at the rate of \$17.16 per hour. Following discussion and reviewing pay scale rate, Ron Nye moved to approve TRMCC New Hire Zach Elser a Dietary Cook at the rate of \$17.16 per hour, as presented. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Madison Valley Manor:** Per email from Allison Veland, Madison Valley Manor Administrator, she is requesting approval for the hire of Iris Carlson as a Dietary Cook/Aide at the rate of \$17.16 per hour. Following discussion and reviewing pay scale rate, John Heckler moved to approve MVM New Hire Iris Carlson a Dietary Cook/Aide at the rate of \$17.16 per hour, as presented. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Saddle Peak Technologies Bid and Timeline for GIS Project: Tommy Luksha, GIS Department, presented contract and scope of work for the GIS Project from Saddle Peak Technologies. The scope of work consists of 4 phases. Phase 1 – Data investigation/scoping; Phase 2 – Data Automation; Phase 3 – Print/Email Option Implementation; Phase 4 – Training. Tommy requested approval to award the project to Saddle Peak Technologies for the amount of \$12,500.00. Following discussion, Ron Nye moved to proceed with Saddle Peak Technologies proposal and the payment come from the Commissioners Contingency fund. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Agreement 22-CS-11010200-008, Powder Gulch Pit Gravel Processing between the USFS and Madison County: The Board reviewed the Challenge Cost Share Agreement between Madison County and the USDA, Forest Service. The purpose of this Agreement is to document the cooperation between the parties to process gravel in a Forest Service owned pit for future road surfacing needs by both Madison County and the Madison Ranger District. Following discussion Ron Nye moved to approve the Challenge Cost Share Agreement between Madison County and the USDA, Forest Service Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, for Powder Gulch Pit Gravel Processing as presented. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Ron Nye moved to approve the July 5, 2022 minutes with the corrections. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Calendars: The Board reviewed calendars.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Next meeting: The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, beginning at 9:30 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 11, 2022

Minutes prepared by:

Shawna Lutgen, Commissioners' Clerk

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