

BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
October 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes

On Tuesday, October 18, 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. Shawna Lutgen, Commissioners' Clerk, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Emilie Saylor, Hannah Brook, Kristie Vessey, Kevin Vessey, Tammy Estensen, Paula McKenzie, Craig Eggers, Todd Gruenhagen, Cody Marxer, Kristy Harper, Lou Burton, MaryBeth Walsh, Charles Bowman, Scott Hazelton, Cody Kerkaert, Tommy Luksha, Vicki Tilstra, Charles Bowman, and Britani Allhands. Jeff LeVeque, IT Support Specialist, administered the Webex connection. Those in attendance via Webex included Ryan Wolter, Craig Erickson, Heidi Woods, Michelle Schriock, Jani Flinn, Gail Nelson, A.M. Welles, K. Doud, Patricia Bradley, Larry Pine, Kate Rose, Connie Dedrick, Pam Vessey, Janie Alt, Jennifer Martens, PH, Laurie Buyan, LeTesa Schrank, Pamela Ward, IT Support, and Mike Callahan.

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

Approval of Minutes: John Heckler moved to approve the October 11, 2022 minutes with the addition of amount of estimate provided by Volt Electric regarding the Mason House Repairs. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Ron Nye moved to approve August 30, 2022 minutes with corrections. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

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 2,265 confirmed positive cases, currently has 9 active cases, 2,234 people have recovered, and there have been 22 fatalities. There are no active hospitalizations, bringing total hospitalizations to 137. Montana has 1,256 active cases, 312,863 confirmed positive cases to date, 308,041 people have recovered, there have been 3,566 COVID fatalities, and active hospitalizations are currently 56. Total number of hospitalizations is 13,398. 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 substantial. No longer requiring rapid testing prior to entry. Screening continues to be required for all staff and visitors. Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center has 22 residents with no COVID cases. One staff member tested positive and has recovered. TRMCC are testing of staff and residents every 3-7 days. One round of rapid testing has been performed resulting in all negatives and three rounds of PCR were all negative results. Vaccination rates are 95% for staff, and 96% for residents. County transmission rate is high. Visitation is allowed. A vaccination clinic is scheduled for October 25, 2022. TRMCC is hoping to close their outbreak status by October 20, 2022. Another topic discussed was Flu Clinics within the County. Public Health is planning on setting up a clinic for flu shots and COVID Booster shots in their office every Wednesday during the month of November.

Appointment of Alternate Election Audit Committee Member: Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, requested approval for Lois Stephens to be appointed as an alternate on the Election Audit Committee. Ron Nye moved to appoint Lois Stephens as an alternate Election Audit Committee member. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Shadow Ridge Subdivision Preliminary Plat: Cody Marxer, Planner I, met with the Board to discuss Shadow Ridge Subdivision Preliminary Plat. The subdivision is designed as a residential subdivision consisting of fifty-five residential lots totaling 76.4 acres and four open space lots totaling 71.54 acres. Total acreage is 165 acres. One of the conditions on the preliminary plat approval was to have the roads within Shadow Ridge Subdivision paved. Lou Burton, Kirk Engineering and Natural Resources Inc., discussed the Planning Boards conditions and stated that 4V Group LLC, the existing landowner, agree with all the

conditions except for the requirement to pave the roads in the subdivision. Lou stated that because of the size of the lots, it is not necessarily a high-density subdivision. A letter was received from Melinda Merrill, Montana Outdoor Property Group, expressing concerns of the condition of paving the roads within the subdivision. Paving the roads would add to the initial pricing of the lots. The reason for the subdivision is to create affordable housing. Craig Eggers, Pronghorn Meadows Subdivision Member, expressed his concerns including wildlife migration, use of open space area, and location of the proposed entrance for Shadow Ridge Subdivision. Todd Gruenhagen, Pronghorn Meadows Subdivision Member, expressed his concerns including with wildlife migration and dust control. Charles Bowman, Pronghorn Meadows Subdivision Member, expressed his concerns including the available water supply. Following discussion, Chairman Allhands said he would like to see the cost of pavement on the loop around the subdivision compared to the cost of mag chloride. He would also like to see a draft of the maintenance plan for the subdivision. Following discussion, it was determined that this item would be postponed until November 1, 2022.

Madison County Housing Study Funding: Mary Beth Walsh, Housing Advisory Board Member, and Scott Hazelton, Hyalite Engineering, presented the Board with a proposal for a Community Housing Needs Assessment. The proposal included an outline, the anticipated scope and budget estimate for the project totaling \$88,663.00. The approval of the Community Housing Needs Assessment Scope Release 2 will allow Hyalite to schedule hours and staff to complete the project after funding has been obtained. Mary Beth would like help find funding for the proposed project. Dan Allhands suggested scheduling a meeting with Jackie Haines, Northern Rocky Mountain Development District, and Hannah Brook, Grant Writer, and figure out the process to obtain future grants for future housing. Following discussion, Ron Nye moved to approve the Community Housing Needs Assessment Scope Release 2 agreement to hold the price of the current level. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

GIS Pilot Project: The board reviewed the GIS Pilot Project (Hospital Districts) Scope Release 3 proposal from Hyalite Engineering. Tommy Luksha, GIS, requested the boards review no later than next week. The Secretary of State and the State Library are waiting for the data. The proposal is for creating a hospital district GIS geodatabase. The proposal included an outline, the anticipated scope and budget estimate for the project totaling \$6,000.00. Following discussion, John Heckler moved to approve the GIS Pilot Project (Hospital Districts) Scope Release 3 agreement to hold the price of the current level. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Existing Capacity Summary Memo: This item has been postponed to October 25, 2022 meeting.

Audit Compliance regarding ARPA Minimum Allocation Grant Resolutions for Ennis, Twin Bridges, Fairgrounds/Twin Bridges: Hannah Brook, Grant Writer, and Vicki Tilstra, Finance Director, met with the Board to discuss audit compliance for the minimum allocation grant. Craig Erickson, Great West Engineering participated via Webex. Vicki called the Bob Denning, Auditor. Bob stated that if the grant was coming from a state or federal agency through the county then the county is fiscally responsible for the grant. The money would have to be passed through the County to the sub reciprocates after they have met the requirements the County has established. If this process is not done then the County would not meet the requirements for monitoring their sub reciprocates. The auditor discussed the different ways of monitoring which included a reimbursement system, physical observation using a log sheet, copy of audit report making sure that the towns are within compliance, and minutes of the towns meetings. Following discussion, the Board will adopt the procedures and requirements suggested by the County Auditor.

Cliff & Wade Lake Road Project Bid Extension: Hannah Brook, Grant Writer, presented an email from Karl Yakawich, Great West Engineering, stating that A.M. Welles has agreed to honor their bid until January 16, 2023. Attached was a signed letter from A.M. Welles.

Claims: The Board approved claims.

Airport Board Appointment: The Board reviewed applications and a recommendation for the vacant Airport Board position. Following discussion, John Heckler moved to appoint Brett Owens to the Airport Board for a

three-year term that will expire on December 31, 2025 based on the recommendation from the Airport Board. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Nursing Homes New Hires and/or Transfers: There was no discussion on this topic.

Resolution 59-2022 Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans: Dan Allhands read Resolution 59-2022 Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans aloud. Operation Green Light for Veterans hereby declares November 7, 2022 through November 13, 2022 a time to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in the window of their place of business or residence. Ron Nye moved to approve Resolution 59-2022 Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans as presented. 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 1:48 p.m.

Next meeting: The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 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 25, 2022

Minutes prepared by:

Shawna Lutgen, Commissioners' Clerk

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