

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARINGS
May 25, 2022, Minutes**

On Wednesday, May 25, 2022, the Board of Madison County Commissioners conducted Preliminary Budget Hearings beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Court Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Dan Allhands, Chairman, Ron Nye, and John Heckler present. Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant to the Board of Commissioners, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the hearings were Vicki Tilstra, Britani Allhands, Joe Dickinson, Kaleena Miller, Pam Birkeland, Dana Escott, and Michelle Schriock.

Road Departments Preliminary Budget Hearings: Dan Allhands reviewed the proposed budget for Road District 1, adding to operating supplies and fuel because of increased costs but decreased dust control by \$10,000 to cover it. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, Britani Allhands, Finance Assistant, and Joe Dickinson, District 3 Road Foreman, were present for this hearing. Dan stated that he would like to roll over the \$150,000 in the equipment line and add another \$125,000 so he would have enough to purchase a new loader. There was discussion about sharing equipment. Dan stated they tried to share a dozer at one point but it didn't work. John offered to put together a schedule for sharing equipment. Joe stated that he has talked to another road foreman and they are both willing to share equipment. Ron discussed a RAC project in Mammoth, adding he might take them up on it. Vicki reviewed the general road account and a trial balance sheet, stating that 226 is for boots that has been approved. She added \$20,000 to line 231 to help with gas for District 2. The rest is 357, for Big Sky Transportation, the state easements if we want to do that, and some for Great West. She reviewed other line items stating 373 is for the Road Review Committee's travel. 397 is Big Sky Owner's plowing, and funds for Jack Creek Road which will be paid from the intercap loan, Cliff and Wade which is grant funded, and budget for a grader. Vicki also reviewed a trial balance sheet and explained what is left in cash, what is coming in for taxes, and that there are still three payrolls left. She added that road does not have a lot of money. She reviewed taxes and the tax revenue schedule. Dan discussed cuts he could make in his budget and the limited amount of equipment purchases he has made in the past few years. He also noted that he gave District 3 funds from District 1 last year so that district wasn't shorted. The numbers were plugged for Road District 2 with increases for fuel, tires, and repairs but a decrease in equipment, for an overall reduction in the proposed budget. John then reviewed the preliminary budget for Road District 3 stating that the highlighted items are things they have questions about. He had an increase of \$20,000 for fuel but reduced it to \$16,000 noting that gas tax and BARSSA would cover the rest. He had an increase of \$24,000 for tires but reduced it to \$12,000. He reduced utility services, and professional services but increased the training line noting that they are back-logged on training. Joe noted that there should be a cut in propane services because the thermostats were set at 79 and he has back them down to 57. John increased sand and gravel and dust control but decreased the vehicles and equipment line. The total increase requested for District 3 was \$179,000. John stated that there hasn't been much crushing done in the last few years. He added that they need to establish a program of about 20 miles per year until they catch up. There was discussion about how many employees to budget for, planning for mag-chloride, equipment that has been abused over the years, working together on various projects, and how it works when one road crew does work for another district.

Extension Preliminary Budget Hearing: Kaleena Miller, Ag Extension Agent, presented the preliminary budget for Extension. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, and Britani Allhands, Finance Assistant, were present for this hearing. Kaleena stated she has asked for more money for 2 reasons. One is fuel costs and not knowing what will happen; the other is the building lease. The building is being sold and there are no guarantees that the rent will remain the same. She increased this item by \$3,525, going from \$1,200 per month to \$1,500 per month. She increased the fuel line by \$1,500 and increased machine maintenance by \$500 and decreased other line items, for an overall increase of \$3,585. Kaleena discussed an exercise class and other Extension related items.

Mental Health Local Advisory Council Preliminary Budget Hearing: Pam Birkeland presented and reviewed the preliminary budget for the Mental Health Local Advisory Council. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, and Britani Allhands, Finance Assistant, were present for this hearing. Pam stated mental health has really focused on education so one of the things they have been doing is surveying the schools to see what their needs are and they are in dire need of help with mental health. One of the things they are looking at is adding some kind of program to help, particularly with the younger kids. That's why she put more into publications and subscriptions. They have been looking at different programs to see which ones would be something they could offer support. They no longer have AWARE and have no mental health funding and they want to have funding to help. The other increase is in training services, contract services because of what they did the other night with Tara Westover. She removed some from meals, lodging and travel because they're not going anywhere. They haven't had anyone go to training for over three years. She also discussed the counseling program, stating that it was a pilot program and turned into a permanent program, so they've left at \$6,000. There was further discussion about Communities That Care, bullying and Suicide in schools, and other mental health issues. The overall request for this budget was an increase of \$3,000. Pam also presented the preliminary budget for Senior Companions and Action Inc. which are included in the Public Health budget. These requests remained the same as last year's.

Fair Board Preliminary Budget Hearing: Dana Escott, Fair Manager, presented and reviewed the Fair preliminary budget. Vicki Tilstra, Finance Officer, and Britani Allhands, Finance Assistant, were present for this hearing. Dana stated she has cut back on a few things and have increased a few due to gas prices and inflation. She stated they increased the building maintenance and repairs line by \$5,000, listing several items that need attention. They increased the rodeo costs coming from contract services by \$4,000 because of the cost of fuel. They also increased contract services by \$5,000. With increases and decreases the overall increase to this budget was \$14,350. Dana reviewed the revenue budget showing an overall anticipated increase of \$8,400. She noted that the Fair Board has been discussing increasing the rental fees at the fairgrounds. Dana also submitted a recommendation from the Fair Board to increase the secretarial hours from 10 hours per week to 20 hours per week from January to May and September to December. The annual increase would be 360 hours and approximately \$6,829.20 in wages. The recommendation included a proposal for a simplified salary schedule the crew assistant and grounds keepers. Further discussion included the Fair Foundation and chinking on the pavilion. Ron recommendation rearranging funds from capital improvements and putting more in grounds and improvements.

Planning Department Preliminary Budget Hearing: Vicki presented the preliminary budget for the Planning Office, noting that Cody Marxer, former Planner 1, helped with it. Michelle Schriock, Planning Clerk, was present for this hearing. Vicki stated that the amount added at the bottom is for the Board. She asked if we're budgeting for four staff in the office. Dan stated we're not sure yet. There was discussion about the bus trip to Big Sky for the next Planning Board meeting. Dan suggested adding at least \$75,000 to \$100,000 for contract services in case we can't find a planner.

Commissioner John Heckler left the hearings at this point and was gone for the rest of the day.

Commissioners' Preliminary Budget Hearing: There was discussion about extra help in the Commissioners' Office. Laurie requested adding a full-time Clerk position and leaving the current position of three days per week. It was also noted that the travel budget would need to be increased.

Bridge Preliminary Budget Hearing: Vicki stated that she will work with Hannah Brook, Grant Administrator, on the bridge budget.

With no further business, the hearings concluded at 12:00 p.m.

Dan W. Allhands, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: June 28, 2022

Minutes prepared by:

Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant

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