

## Madison County Board of Commissioners Meeting

10:00 am Tuesday, January 6, 2026, until concluded

First Floor Public Meeting Room  
Administrative Office Building, Virginia City, Montana

WebEx Login:

<https://madisoncounty.my.webex.com/madisoncounty.my/j.php?MTID=m41ec260e52fb051a5b5abad7194ef5ac>

Meeting Number: 2557 256 7614 Password: VCMadison

Join by Phone: 1-650-479-3208 Password: 82623476

Press \*6 to mute or unmute

Duke Gilman, District 1 Commissioner  
Ron Nye, District 2 Commissioner  
Bill Todd, District 3 Commissioner, Chairman

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### CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

### PUBLIC COMMENT (PLEASE LIMIT TO 5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

### CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes for December 15, 2025, Work Session Meeting
- Minutes for December 22, 2025 Work Session Meeting
- Minutes for December 22, 2025, Special Meeting
- Minutes for December 23, 2025 Regular Meeting
- Approval of Claims

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- None

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

### NEW BUSINESS

- Election of the Commission Chairman for 2026
- RESOLUTION 1-2026, A Resolution Setting Mileage Rates for Calendar Year 2026
- RESOLUTION 2-2026, A Resolution Setting Dates for Commission Meetings
- RESOLUTION 3-2026, A Resolution Setting County Office Hours
- RESOLUTION 4-2026, A Resolution Establishing Locations for Posting Public Notice
- RESOLUTION 5-2026, A Resolution Establishing Agenda Items Submission Time Frame
- Bus Barn Contract
- Virginia City Schoolhouse Window Restoration Project - Letter of Support
- FY2026 County Motor Vehicle Graveyard Grant for \$32,548.60
- Approval for the Viewer's Committee to Conduct an Inspection for Alley Closure in Pony, Montana
  - Located in Section 18, T02S, R02W in Block 44, extending between Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the Original Townsite of Pony, Montana
  - Located Between Bridges Add (Harrison), S36, T01 S, R02 W, BLOCK 9, Lots 13-15 and 46 - 48 of the Original Townsite of Pony, Montana

### BOARD RENEWALS AND RESIGNATIONS

- Reappoint Steve Burke to the Laurin Cemetery Board
- Reappoint Rita Owens to the Planning Board
- Resignation of Steve Janzen from the Planning Board

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDARS

Jan 5, 2026 Mental Health Local Advisory 2:00 PM WebEx  
Jan 12, 2026 Airport Board Meeting 6:00 PM Annex Building Public Meeting Room  
Jan 15, 2026 Safety Committee Meeting 10:00 AM Public Meeting Room  
Jan 15, 2026 Solid Waste and Recycling Board Meeting 1:15 PM Annex Building Meeting Room

Jan 22, 2026 Library Board Meeting 9:30 AM Thompson-Hickman Madison County Library  
Jan 23, 2026 Housing Advisory Board Meeting 1:00 PM Annex Building Public Meeting Room  
Jan 26, 2026 Planning Board Meeting 6:00 PM Annex Building Public Meeting Room  
Feb 27, 2026 Senior Citizen Advisory Board 11:00 AM Twin Bridges Senior Center

ADJOURNMENT

**Madison County  
Commissioners' Work Session Meeting**

December 15, 2025, 10:00 am Mountain Time until concluded  
103 W Wallace St, Virginia City, MT 59755, United States  
First Floor Public Meeting Room  
Administrative Office Building, Virginia City, Montana

**Present:**

Duke W. Gilman, Commissioner, District 1  
Ron E. Nye, Commissioner, District 2  
William A. Todd, Commissioner, District 3, Chairman

**In attendance:**

Ryan Wolter, IT Support Specialist, administered the Webex connection  
Sarah Carlson, Commissioners' / Airport Assistant, was present to take minutes

**Attendee List:**

Duncan Hedges, Sheriff  
Colton Lauer, Madison County Attorney  
Joe Brummell, DES  
Kristi Millhouse, Finance Director  
Hannah Brook, Victims Advocate  
Christine Preece, Nursing Home Administrator  
Justin Gatewood, Mayor of Virginia City  
Mati Bishop, The Madisonian  
Josh Margois, NBC Montana  
Joanne Galiger, Nursing Home Foundation  
Kassie Marsh, TRMCC  
Becky Deboer, Sheridan  
Bill Buyan, Sheridan  
Peggy Buyan, Sheridan  
Ted Woirhaye, RVMC  
Jessica Jansen, RVMC

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call**

**2. Public Comment (Please Limit to 5 Minutes Per Person)**

None

### **3. Report of Committees**

#### **3.1. Madison County Courthouse Rehabilitation and Addition**

Pat Jacobs from Architecture Trio participated via WebEx. She stated that the drawings are scheduled to be forwarded to the cost estimator this week. An estimated cost is expected from them by the second week of January. Pat is preparing a draft request for the state historic preservation office review for the county's use. Her goal is to have those drawings to them by the end of the week. We have two preliminary color palettes for the finishes; we are currently awaiting the carpet selection. We're still on target to bid in the 1st week of February.

Comment: Jacobs. Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Gilman, and Commissioner Nye.

#### **3.2. Payroll Discussion**

Commissioner Todd stated that we have identified six distinct errors in the personnel files related to UKG's integration for the nursing home.

Comment: None. Discussion: Commissioner Todd and Commissioner Gilman.

### **4. Unfinished Business**

None

### **5. New Business**

#### **5.1. Bid Opening for Chip Sealing and Pavement Repair**

No bids were received for the chip sealing and pavement repair project.

Comment: None. Discussion: Commissioner Todd.

#### **5.2. Satellite Service for Command Vehicle**

Joe Brummell of the Madison County DES department came to discuss replacing the county's current satellite system. The original satellite system, the T-100 platform, was purchased with grant funding in 2017. The annual usage fee for that service is \$6,826.80. Joe recommended switching to Starlink. The startup cost is \$229.00, followed by \$65.00 per month, for a total of \$1,980 per year. The Starlink system is smaller, more mobile, and faster.

Comment: Brummell and Hedges. Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Gilman.

#### **5.3. Virginia City - Montana Heritage Commission Discussion**

Justin Gatewood, the Mayor of Virginia City, addressed concerns about the Department of Commerce's apparent unilateral termination of at least eight leases held by year-round residents in the city. The termination notices vary in notice period, ranging from 21 to 60 days. Virginia City is classified as a Resort City tax community. Seven of the eight affected businesses account for approximately 40% of the city's annual resort tax revenues. The terminated leases were replaced with new lease agreements, which were forwarded to the tenants, resulting in a gross profit margin of 15%. The profit margins for these businesses

generally range from about 3% to 5%. As a result, for every \$10,000 in revenue, these businesses could face a financial shortfall of approximately \$1,000. The town is requesting the Commissioners' support. The Montana Annotated Code states that the lease process is negotiated between the Heritage Commission and the business owner, and those negotiations haven't happened. On Thursday, December 18th at 9:00 pm at the Elks Club, the town of Virginia City will hold an emergency town council meeting to discuss this situation.

Jamie Barta participated via Webex and stated: there is an approximately \$74 million impact on the community derived from all the MHC businesses. Annually, over half a million individuals are attracted to the area, and more than 1,200 jobs are generated. This will have a significant impact on the community. Jamie Barta provided information on Montana's annotated code, which addresses the Heritage Commission and explains its formation. The purpose of the Heritage Commission is to preserve, develop, and manage on behalf of the state properties that possess outstanding historical value, display exceptional qualities worth preserving, and are genuinely representative of the state's culture and history. The Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission shall achieve this purpose by managing the properties for which it is responsible in a manner that preserves and protects them. There's also another part of the Montana code that says the commission is attached to the Department of Commerce for administrative purposes only.

Ken Walsh participated via WebEx and concurred with the previous statements from Mayor Gatewood and Jamie Barta. Ken has been in contact with the Department of Commerce and the governor's office. Ken recommended a letter of support for public involvement.

Commissioner Todd announced that the former director is scheduled for sentencing on Wednesday at 10:00 A.M., an event expected to conclude a regrettable chapter in Virginia City. It is hoped that the Department of Commerce will refrain from further instances of collective punishment, as current appearances suggest such actions are occurring.

Commissioner Nye suggested drafting a letter of support for the town and the affected business, which would then be forwarded to both the Governor and the Montana Heritage Commission.

Comment: Gatewood, Barta, Walsh (Webex). Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Gilman, and Commissioner Nye.

#### **5.4. Nursing Home Discussion**

Kassie Marsh, a resident of Madison County, has articulated concerns regarding the current occupancy rates at the Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center (TRMCC) and the Madison Valley Manor (MVM). Presently, occupancy levels are modest, with 13 residents at TRMCC and 18 at MVM. She has also expressed concerns about the denial of applications to TRMCC. Historically, the assessment of whether applicants were suitable for placement at TRMCC was undertaken by the nursing staff and social workers, with no involvement from the administrator. Kassie also raised concerns about the decrease in staff at TRMCC.

Peggy Buyan, a resident of Madison County, reports that she has heard of 2 residents falling at TRMCC. She also has concerns about Sheridan residents being denied access.

Bill Buyan, a resident of Madison County, raised concerns about admissions denials and staffing issues in the nursing homes, as well as the potential closure of the nursing home if the

number of residents doesn't increase. Bill also commented that he would like to see times back on the agenda.

Ted Woirhaye, the Chief Nursing Officer at Ruby Valley Medical Center, previously worked at TRMCC and said that when he was there, there were 35 residents. Regarding the recent admissions denials, he is aware of 2 cases, and those individuals went to another nursing home. Ted is concerned about staffing at TRMCC.

Becky DeBoer, a resident of Madison County, commented that her mom was a former resident of TRMCC and received the best care there. She is concerned about current staffing issues at the nursing homes.

Jessica Janson is the case manager for the Ruby Valley Medical Center. Requested a guideline for admission to TRMCC and to be able to provide for the community.

Dan Allhands, a resident of Madison County, participated via WebEx and stated that this constitutes a significant aspect of the commissioner's responsibilities and is of considerable importance. This is the reason why voters authorized a 17-mill permanent mill. He proposed providing weekly updates on the status of both nursing homes and recommended that the county consider appointing a second nursing home administrator.

Joanne Galiger of the Nursing Home Foundation raised concerns that staff at the nursing homes are unhappy about coming to work, which will affect the care of residents. She also raised issues with traveling nurses.

Paul Marsh, representing the Nursing Home Foundation, participated via WebEx and said he wishes to echo every concern he has heard. He is concerned about the reduction in staffing and the decline in nursing home residents.

Christine Preece, the Madison County Nursing Home Administrator, said that some individuals were turned away due to their current acuity. The interdisciplinary team includes social services, activities, MDS, and dietary. We review incoming referrals to determine whether we can meet each individual's needs. Currently, if individuals require physical therapy and occupational therapy, TRMCC cannot accept them because Ruby Valley Medical Center cannot provide occupational therapy to TRMCC. There are also issues with needing a contract with a speech therapist. We also can't accept any Medicare Aid residents. In terms of statistics, we do not have many bedsores. Extra training has been provided on Rockhole cushions. Regarding staffing, I need to ensure that the traveling staff are competent. Previous administrations let a lot of things slide. We have many rules. If you can't follow those rules, I'm holding people to the same accountability standard the federal government holds me to because I have a professional license. I don't want my license jeopardized. When evaluating prospective new residents, it is also imperative to consider their use of antipsychotic medication, given that federal regulations have become progressively more stringent. Christy also notes that she loves seeing community involvement at those facilities.

Duncan Hedges, the Sheriff of Madison County, observed that the challenge is a nationwide issue affecting these and other organizations, as all are endeavoring to recruit highly qualified personnel. The task of attracting such candidates remains particularly difficult for our smaller entity agencies.

Commissioner Todd underscored the importance of instituting an admissions guideline for the community. Our main objective is to ensure the continued operation of the facilities and uphold fiscal responsibility. We greatly cherish the community's trust and the contributions made through mill levies, which are vital for our sustainability. Without these funds, the ongoing operation would be unfeasible. It is of utmost importance to ensure that residents in these facilities receive the highest standard of service.

Commissioner Gilman, I apologize for my oversight regarding this matter. I am concerned because relatively few counties continue to operate nursing homes.

Comment: Kassie Marsh, Peggy Buyan, Bill Buyan, Woirhey, Deboer, Janson, Galiger, Preece, and Hedges. Webex Allhands and Paul Marsh. Discussion: None.

**5.5. Holiday Party or \$100 Bonus Discussion**

The Commissioners deliberated on awarding Madison County employees a bonus of \$100.00 and decided to forgo the holiday appreciation gathering.

Comment: None. Discussion: Commissioner Nye, Commissioner Gilman, and Commissioner Todd.

**Adjournment**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am.

The upcoming Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Building in Virginia City, Montana.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:**.....

**William A. Todd, Commissioner, Chairman**

**Date Approved: January 6, 2026**

**Signed:** .....

**Date:**.....

**Minutes prepared by:**

**Sarah Carlson, Commissioners' / Airport Assistant**

**Attest:** .....

**Date:**.....

**Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County**

**Madison County  
Commissioners Emergency Meeting**

December 22, 2025, 1:00 am Mountain Time until concluded  
103 W Wallace St, Virginia City, MT 59755, United States  
First Floor Public Meeting Room  
Administrative Office Building, Virginia City, Montana

**Present:**

Duke W. Gilman, Commissioner District 1  
Ronald E. Nye, Commissioner District 2  
William A. Todd, Commissioner, District 3, Chairman

**In Attendance:**

Ryan Wolter, IT Support Specialist, administered the Webex connection  
Sarah Carlson, Commissioners' / Airport Assistant, was present to take minutes

**Attendee List:**

Colton Lauer, Madison County Attorney

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call**

**2. Public Comment (Please Limit to 5 Minutes Per Person)**

None

**3. New Business**

**3.1. Resolution 67-2025 A Resolution Calling For An Election On The Question Of Whether Properties In The Madison County Portion Of The Big Sky Resort Area District Shall Withdraw From The Madison Valley Hospital District**

Colton Lauer, Madison County Attorney, provided background on the Resolution. An election will be held concurrently with the special district election scheduled for 5 May and will be conducted exclusively via mail-in ballots.

**RESOLVED:** Commissioner Nye moved to approve Resolution 67-2025, A Resolution Calling For An Election On The Question Of Whether Properties In The Madison County Portion Of The Big Sky Resort Area District Shall Withdraw From The Madison Valley Hospital District. Commissioner Gilman seconded the motion.

For: Duke Gilman, Ron Nye. Astained from voting: William Todd. Motion passed.

Comment: Lauer. Discussion: None.

**Adjournment**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm.

The upcoming Regular Commissioner meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at 10:00 am, in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Building in Virginia City, Montana.

**Signed: .....**  
**William A. Todd, Commissioner, Chairman**  
**Date Approved: January 6, 2026**

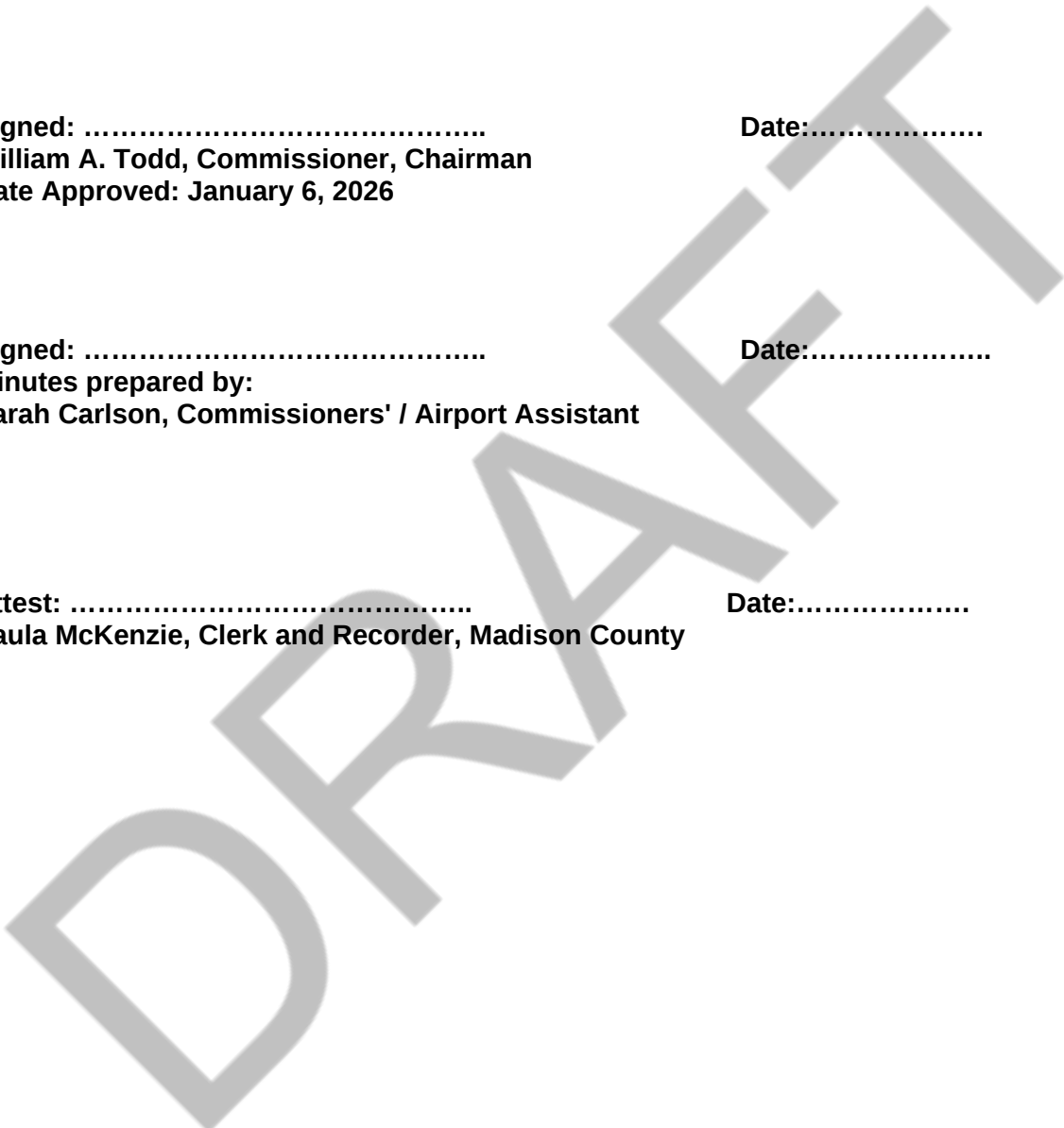
**Date:.....**

**Signed: .....**  
**Minutes prepared by:**  
**Sarah Carlson, Commissioners' / Airport Assistant**

**Date:.....**

**Attest: .....**  
**Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County**

**Date:.....**



**RESOLUTION 1-2026**  
**A Resolution Setting Mileage Rates for Calendar Year 2026**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners must establish a Mileage Reimbursement Rate for public officers or employees required to travel for County business, and

**WHEREAS**, the standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile, including depreciation, insurance, repairs, tires, maintenance, gas and oil, and

**WHEREAS**, Montana Association of Counties has provided Madison County with the standard reimbursement rate for mileage as set by the Internal Revenue Service.

**WHEREAS**, The Madison County Board of Commissioners did approve the mileage rate for travel for the county to be 72.5 cents per mile as of January 1, 2026, as reported by the Internal Revenue Service and;

**WHEREAS**, Employees who desire to use their personal vehicle for travel rather than a county vehicle shall be reimbursed at 48.15% of the rate established by the I.R.S. The current I.R.S. travel rate is 72.5 cents, therefore the current county rate for personal vehicles is set at 35 cents per miles. If county vehicles are unavailable at the employee's work location for required travel, mileage for personal vehicles will be reimbursed at the current full I.R.S. rate.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that effective January 1, 2026, per MCA 2-18-503, the Madison County Mileage Reimbursement Rate is 72.5 cents per mile for the first 1,000 miles traveled in a calendar month and three cents less or 69.5 cents per mile actually traveled thereafter. If a business vehicle is available but the public officer or employee chooses to use a personal vehicle, the public officer or employee may be reimbursed at the rate of 48.15% of the mileage rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service for the current year. (35 cents per mile up to 1000 miles and 33.5 cents per mile after 1000 miles).

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM A TODD, CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
RONALD E. NYE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DUKE W. GILMAN

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula McKenzie  
Clerk and Recorder

**RESOLUTION 2-2026**  
**A RESOLUTION SETTING DATES**  
**FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS**

**WHEREAS**, Section **7-5-2122 MCA** establishes requirements when meetings of Board of Commissioners must establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date; and

**WHEREAS**, Except as provided in subsection (3) or in the event of an emergency situation under **2-3-112** affecting the public health, welfare, or safety, all meeting must be held on the date designated in subsection (1) and at the county seat of the board's county; and

**WHEREAS**, The board may, by resolution and having provided at least 2 days posted public notice in accordance with **7-1-2123**, designate another meeting time or place; and

**WHEREAS**, The presence of a quorum of members of the board at an event or meeting of another entity or organization or traveling in the same vehicle does not constitute a meeting of the boards as long as no issues over which the commission has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power are discussed or heard. County business may be conducted during a meeting as defined in **2-3-202** for which notice has been properly given; and

**WHEREAS**, If a quorum of commissioners is present at an event or meeting or is traveling in the same vehicle when it was not possible to provide public notice under **7-1-2123** and issues over which the commission has supervision, control jurisdiction, or advisory power are discussed or heard, the commissioners present shall provide a report at the commission's next regularly scheduled meeting. The report must include the name of the event or meeting, the name of the persons involved, the date and location of the event or meeting, and a brief summary of the issues discussed or heard. If the commissioners' presence at the unnoticed meeting or event is reasonably expected to precipitate ensuing consideration of any issue by the board of county commissioners, details associated with the issue discussed or heard must also be included in the report.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Madison County Board of Commissioners will conduct weekly meetings on Tuesdays of each week beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the First Floor Public Meeting Room of the Madison County Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, except on legal holidays or if otherwise noticed in the Public Notice Posting locations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Madison County Board of Commissioners will conduct weekly work sessions on Mondays of each week beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the First Floor Public Meeting Room of the Madison County Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, except on legal holidays or if otherwise noticed in the Public Notice Posting locations. These work sessions will be open to the public, but the Board will not make any decisions at the sessions.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM A. TODD, CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
RONALD E. NYE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DUKE W. GILMAN

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula McKenzie  
Clerk and Recorder

**RESOLUTION 3-2026**  
**A RESOLUTION SETTING COUNTY OFFICE HOURS**

**WHEREAS**, per MCA 7-4-102, the Board of Commissioners must establish the business hours of County offices, and

**WHEREAS**, unless otherwise provided by law, each officer shall keep the officer's office open for the transaction of business during the office hours determined by the governing body by resolution after a public hearing and only if consented to by any affected elected county officer Monday through Friday except legal holidays, and

**WHEREAS**, the County Treasurer may, in the interest of the safekeeping of funds, securities, and records under their control, close their offices during the period from noon to 1:00 p.m. every day.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Madison County Board of Commissioners that all elected County officials, with the exception of the Board of Commissioners, will keep their offices open for business from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except legal holidays.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all other offices under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners will be open for business from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except legal holidays unless permission to vary from these hours has been granted by the Board of Commissioners and the closure has been legally noticed, with the exception of certain offices that are closed during the lunch hour (12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.).

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM A. TODD, CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
RONALD E. NYE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DUKE W. GILMAN

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula McKenzie  
Clerk and Recorder

**RESOLUTION 4-2026**  
**A Resolution Establishing Locations**  
**for Posting Public Notice**

WHEREAS, Section 7-1-2121 MCA establishes requirements when public notice is to be provided by publication; and

WHEREAS, Section 7-1-2122 MCA establishes requirements when public notice is to be provided by mail; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 334 (2013) establishes requirements when public notice is to be provided by posting and is codified as 7-1-2123 MCA.

**7-1-2123 Posting.** *(1) The governing body shall specify by resolution a public location for posting information and shall order erected a suitable posting board.*  
*(2) When posting is required, a copy of the document must be placed on the posting board, and a copy must be available at the office of the county clerk and recorder.*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Madison County hereby designates the following location(s) as the location where public notice will be provided when public notice is to be done by posting:

1. The bulletin board located at the front entrance of the Administrative Office Building, 103 West Wallace, Virginia City, Montana.
2. The bulletin board located in the Virginia City Post Office.
3. The Madison County website.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM A. TODD, CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
RONALD E. NYE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DUKE W. GILMAN

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula McKenzie  
Clerk and Recorder

## Resolution Number: 5-2026

### A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AGENDA ITEMS SUBMISSION TIME FRAME

WHEREAS, it is essential to ensure proper preparation and communication for scheduled meetings, and

WHEREAS, last-minute changes to agendas may disrupt participants' ability to adequately prepare and engage in meaningful discussions,

BE IT RESOLVED, that any modifications or changes to the meeting agenda shall not be made after Wednesday 12:00 PM and all documentation must be provided to the Commissioners' Office by Thursday at 5:00 PM.

FURTHERMORE, any proposed changes to the agenda after the specified day and time must be submitted in writing to the Board of Commissioners for review and approval. Only changes deemed urgent or critical to the meeting's objectives will be considered after the cutoff time.

THIS Resolution shall take effect immediately and apply to all future meetings, unless otherwise amended by a subsequent resolution.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Madison County Board of Commissioners this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM A. TODD, CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
RONALD E. NYE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DUKE W. GILMAN

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula McKenzie  
Clerk and Recorder

December 27, 2025

Foundation for Montana History  
1750 North Washington Street  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Foundation for Montana History Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of Madison County Commissioners Office, I am writing in strong support of the Virginia City Schoolhouse Foundation's application for a Foundation for Montana History (FMH) grant to restore the windows of the historic Virginia City Schoolhouse. As the owner of the schoolhouse property for over 30 years, we also give permission for the proposed improvements.

During this period, the property has housed various county and municipal government offices. In 2009, the property was vacated, due to lingering structural safety concerns associated with damage sustained by 1959 Hebgen Lake earthquake and limited financial resources to properly renovate the building. For the past 15 years, the county has attempted to find a new use or appropriate new owner for the property.

Accordingly, we were grateful when earlier this year, the Virginia City Schoolhouse Foundation (VCSF), a local non-profit organization, approached the county to inquire about leasing the building and leading the renovation effort. Subsequently, the VCSF entered into a 2-year lease with Madison County and has expressed the desire to acquire the property as a long-term community asset dedicated to preserving the schoolhouse, sharing its story, and supporting the arts in Madison County and Virginia City's well-established heritage tourism economy.

The VCSF has developed a 3-phased strategy, estimated to cost \$1.0 million, to renovate the building. Indicative of strong regional support, over \$125,000 of cash and in-kind contributions have been raised for the project. As part of Phase 2 Exterior Repairs, the requested \$15,000 FMH grant, matched with \$26,000 of secured funds, will be used to restore the building's 18 original wood windows. These windows are currently in poor condition.

We encourage your support for this worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**P.O. BOX 278**

**VIRGINIA CITY, MT 59755**

Commissioners

Duke W. Gilman  
Ronald E. Nye  
William A. Todd

e-mail: [madco@madisoncountymt.gov](mailto:madco@madisoncountymt.gov)  
[www.madisoncountymt.gov](http://www.madisoncountymt.gov)

Phone: (406) 843-4277  
Fax: (406) 843-5517

.....  
January 6, 2025

Foundation for Montana History  
1750 North Washington Street  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Foundation for Montana History Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of the Madison County Commissioners' Office, we hereby convey our unequivocal support for the Virginia City Schoolhouse Foundation's application for a Foundation for Montana History (FMH) grant, intended to facilitate the restoration of the historic Virginia City Schoolhouse's windows. As the longstanding proprietor of the schoolhouse property for over three decades, we also endorse the proposed enhancements.

During this period, the property has accommodated various county and municipal government offices. In 2009, the property was vacated due to ongoing structural safety concerns arising from damage sustained during the 1959 Hebgen Lake earthquake and limited financial resources allocated for proper renovation. Over the past 15 years, the county has endeavored to find a new function or a suitable new owner for the property.

Accordingly, we expressed our gratitude earlier this year when the Virginia City Schoolhouse Foundation (VCSF), a local nonprofit organization, initiated contact with the county to inquire about leasing the building and managing its renovation. Subsequently, the VCSF entered into a two-year lease agreement with Madison County and has articulated its interest in acquiring the property as a long-term community asset dedicated to the preservation of the schoolhouse, sharing its historical significance, and fostering the arts within Madison County and Virginia City's well-established heritage tourism economy.

The VCSF has devised a three-phase strategy, estimated to necessitate a funding of \$1.0 million, for the renovation of the building. The initiative has received considerable regional support, amounting to over \$125,000 in both monetary and in-kind contributions. As part of Phase 2, Exterior Repairs, the requested \$15,000 FMH grant, supplemented by \$26,000 in secured funds, will enable the restoration of the building's eighteen original wooden windows, which are currently in a state of deterioration.

We respectfully seek your support for this commendable endeavor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Duke W. Gilman,  
District 1 Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald E. Nye  
District 2 Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
William A. Todd, Chairman  
District 3 Commissioner



December 19, 2025

MADISON COUNTY JV PROGRAM  
PO BOX 278  
VIRGINIA CITY MT 59755

Subject: **FY2026 COUNTY MOTOR VEHICLE GRAVEYARD GRANT for  
MADISON COUNTY JV GRAVEYARD ALDER (JVCG-0030)**

To Kacey:

Thank you for submitting your Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 grant package with the itemized accounting form for FY 2025. I have reviewed the budget and the itemized accounting breakdown and approved them as submitted. Enclosed is one vendor invoice totaling \$32,548.60. This payment equals the full eligible grant of \$32,548.60 for FY2026. Please have the commissioners sign the vendor invoice and return it. As soon as the invoice is received the funding will be processed.

During FY2025, according to your motor vehicle graveyard log sheets your program hauled **14 vehicles**.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (406)444-3493 or email me at [astaley@mt.gov](mailto:astaley@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Staley".

ANDREA STALEY  
Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program  
Phone (406)444-3493  
FAX (406)444-1374  
Email [astaley@mt.gov](mailto:astaley@mt.gov)

Enclosure: FY2026 Vendor Invoice

RECEIVED  
DEC 22 2025

STATE OF MONTANA <b>VENDOR INVOICE</b>	
VENDOR'S NAME ADDRESS	BILLED TO
PO BOX 278 VIRGINIA CITY MT 59755-0278 BOARD OF CO COMMISSIONERS - MADISON	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MOTOR VEHICLE RECYCLING & DISPOSAL PO BOX 200901 1520 E 6TH AVE HELENA MT 59620-0901

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS DELIVERED OR SERVICES RENDERED	AMOUNT
	<p><b>DATE: December 19, 2025</b></p> <p>Budget for the implementation of the motor vehicle recycling and disposal program for your county for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, which has been approved and will be paid by the State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Waste Management and Remediation Division, Motor Vehicle Recycling &amp; Disposal Program.</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 5-13-304(8), MCA. I recognize that Legislative Auditor is authorized to:</p> <p>"...audit records of organizations and individuals receiving grants from or on behalf of the state to determine that the grants are administered in accordance with the grant terms and conditions. Whenever a state agency enters into an agreement to grant resources under its control to others, the agency must obtain the written consent of the grantee to the audit provided for this subsection."</p> <p>Upon signing this vendor invoice and the receipt of funds, your program agrees that consent is hereby given to the Legislative Auditor to conduct the audit described in Section 5-13-304(8), MCA.</p> <p><b>ORG: #495722</b> <b>OBJECT CODE: #66101</b></p>	
	<p><b>FY2026 Eligible Budget</b></p> <p>Less <b>FY2025 Ending Balance</b></p>	<p><b>\$32,548.60</b></p> <p><b>\$0.00</b></p>
<b>GRAND TOTAL =</b>		<b>\$32,548.60</b>

STATE USE ONLY		I certify that this invoice is correct in all respects and that payment has not been received.	
<b>APPROVED FOR PAYMENT</b>			
		VENDOR'S NAME	
		DATE PROCESSED	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE		VENDOR'S SIGNATURE	
DATE		TITLE	

MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA  
CLERK AND RECORDER



### CERTIFICATON OF OWNERS

I, Paula Mckenzie, Clerk and Recorder of Madison County, Montana hereby certify that the names of those so marked on the attached Road Petition are the names of property owners; being ten in road district \_\_\_ OR all property owners adjacent to the street, road or alley which

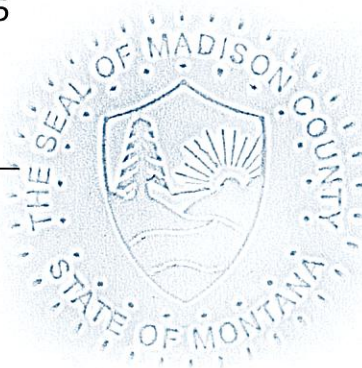
Jacqueline A Todd and Jason Todd, trustee of the Jacqueline A Todd Irrevocable Trust (see petition)

Name of property owner bringing petition

requested to be closed by the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

Dated this 30th day of September, 2025

  
Clerk and Recorder of Madison County



# EXHIBIT "A"

## MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



### REQUEST TO CLOSE OR ABANDON STREET / ROAD / ALLEY

I/we request that the street / alley / road described below be closed or abandoned.  
(Complete one of the following:)

Name of street in an unincorporated townsite: Alley in  
Pony, MT (name of town), Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 in Block (if  
applicable) 44 of the \_\_\_\_\_ Addition.  
Book \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_.

The alley that is contained in BLOCK 44 of \_\_\_\_\_ Addition to the  
unincorporated townsite of Pony.

The road known as an Alley and located in  
Block 44 lying between lots 7/8/9 and 10/11/12.  
"Please see attached figure provided by Madison County"

(Please describe as thoroughly as possible, using township, range, section and any references possible)

Reason for request for closure / abandonment: We have owned the property for approximately  
50 years, and in that time, the alley has never been used for any type of access.  
Functionally, it is part of the lawn and gets mowed as part of upkeep.

I, we, understand that we will be required to circulate a petition (attached) requiring the signature/approval of  
all adjacent property owners if street or alley is in an unincorporated town,  
Or 10 (TEN) property owners of a majority of the freeholders in the road district.  
Additionally, I/we have provided a map of the area being requested for closure/abandonment (attached). (This  
map is easily discernable and is in a black and white format)

Signed, this 30 day of September, 2025.

Jacqueline A. Todd  
Jason Todd (Trustee)

### Petition for Road, Street or Alley Closure

We the undersigned, being all affected property owners in the street or alley of an unincorporated town OR ten (10) (or a majority of the freeholders) of the road district taxable therein for the purposes within the County of Madison, do petition the Madison County Commissioners to close, after proper public hearing, a certain county road, street or alley, described as follows:

An alley within Block 44 in the town of Pony, MT lying between lots 7/8/9 and 10/11/12.

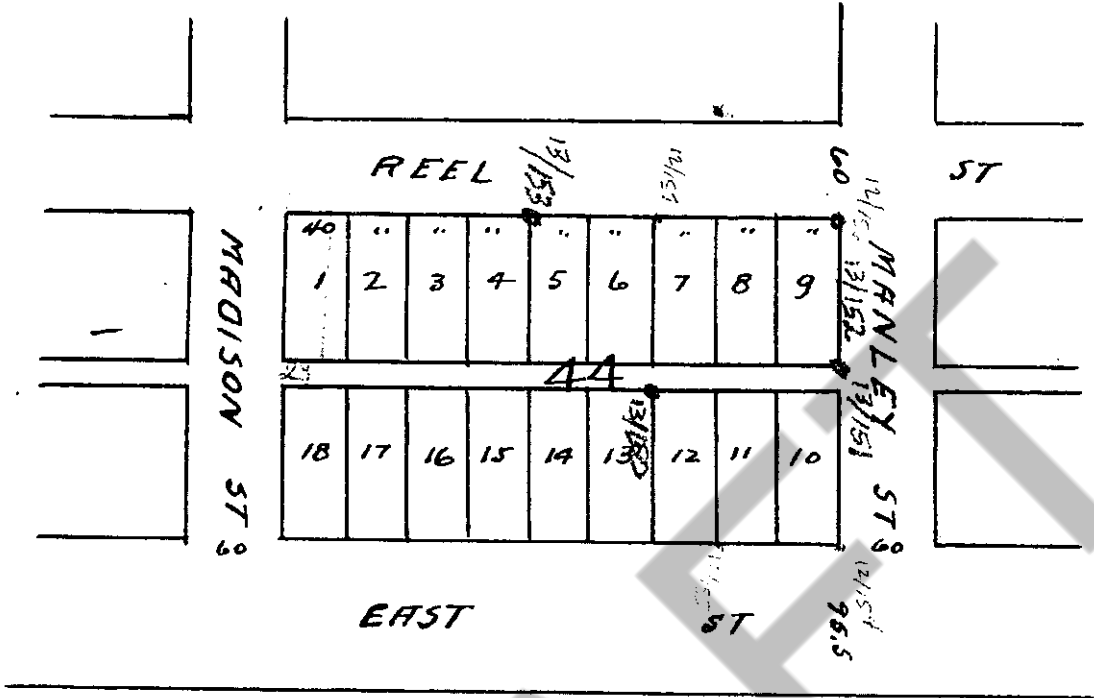
Please see figure attached at the end of this document for an illustration.

**This petition is based upon the following facts:**

This alley has not been functionally used for any purpose in over 50 years. It has become part of yard / lawn.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1. Jacqueline A. Todd	4920 Foothill Rd., Butte, MT 59701	<i>Jacqueline A. Todd</i>
2. Jason Todd (Trustee)	1333 W 2425 S, Syracuse, UT 84075	<i>Jason Todd</i>
3.		
4.	<i>all property owned by Jacqueline A Todd irrevocable Trust w/ Jason Todd as trustee</i>	
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
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12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

(USE ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)



DRAFT

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, On January 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in the First Floor Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, a public meeting will be held to receive comments on a petition requesting the closure of a section of alley located in Section 18, T02S, R02W in Block 44, extending between Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the Original Townsite of Pony, Montana. Copies of the petition are available for public review and comment at the Madison County Commissioners' Office.

Comments on the proposal are welcome. Written public comments may be submitted or delivered to the Madison County Commissioners' Office, P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, MT 59755; or emailed to [madco@madisoncountymt.gov](mailto:madco@madisoncountymt.gov). Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 26, 2026.

Please Publish: 1/8/2026 and 1/15/2026

MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA  
CLERK AND RECORDER



### CERTIFICATON OF OWNERS

I, Paula Mckenzie, Clerk and Recorder of Madison County, Montana hereby certify that the names of those so marked on the attached Road Petition are the names of property owners; all property owners adjacent to the street, road or alley which Randy & Debra Jacobson and Montana Climate Control

Name of property owner bringing petition

requested to be closed by the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2025

  
Clerk and Recorder of Madison County

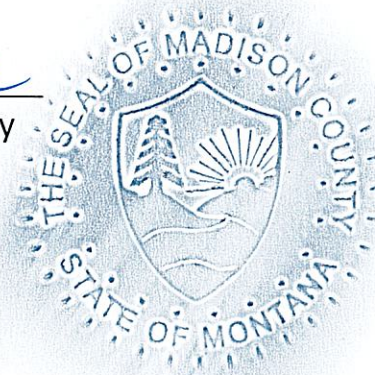


EXHIBIT "A"

MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



REQUEST TO CLOSE OR ABANDON STREET / ROAD / ALLEY

I/we request that the street / alley / road described below be closed or abandoned.  
(Complete one of the following:)

Name of street in an unincorporated townsite: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of town), Lots \_\_\_\_\_ in Block (if  
applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Addition.  
Book \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_.

The alley that is contained in BLOCK 9 of Bridges Addition to the  
unincorporated townsite of Harrison, MT.

The road known as Alley Easement and located in  
Bridges Addition, 536, T01S, R02W, Block 9  
between lots 13-15 and 46-48

(Please describe as thoroughly as possible, using township, range, section and any references possible)

Reason for request for closure / abandonment: Overgrown & Swampy  
Not Suitable for a road

I, we, understand that we will be required to circulate a petition (attached) requiring the signature/approval of  
all adjacent property owners if street or alley is in an unincorporated town,  
Or 10 (TEN) property owners of a majority of the freeholders in the road district.  
Additionally, I/we have provided a map of the area being requested for closure/abandonment (attached). (This  
map is easily discernable and is in a black and white format)

Signed, this 5 day of November, 2025

RJM  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Jacobson  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra K. Jacobson  
\_\_\_\_\_

See Attached  
Cadastral  
Map 5

## Petition for Road, Street or Alley Closure

We the undersigned, being all affected property owners in the street or alley of an unincorporated town OR ten (10) (or a majority of the freeholders) of the road district taxable therein for the purposes within the County of Madison, do petition the Madison County Commissioners to close, after proper public hearing, a certain county road, street or alley, described as follows:

*See Attached Cadastral Maps*

This petition is based upon the following facts:

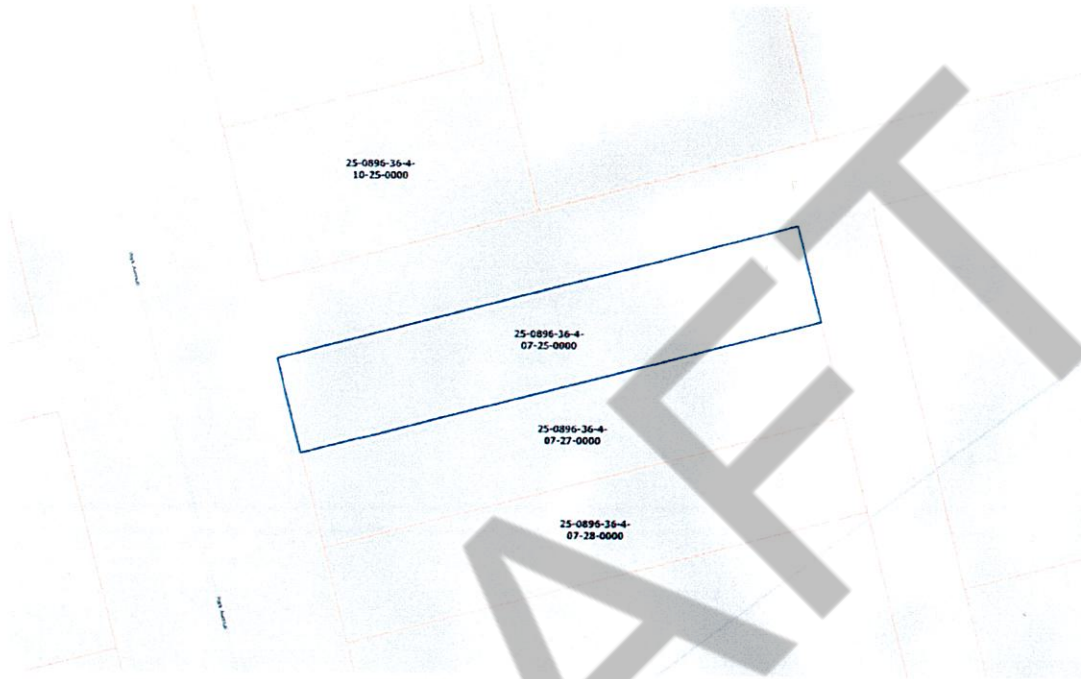
*This portion of Alley is Overgrown & Full of Water Runoff (Swamp) making a Future Road unfeasible.*

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1. <i>oyce Buines Montana Climate Center</i>	<i>162 Park Avenue PO Box 241 Harrison, MT 59735</i>	<i>[Signature]</i> <i>13-15</i>
2.		
3. <i>Randy &amp; Debra Jacobson</i>	<i>PO Box 221 Harrison, MT 59735 46-48</i>	<i>Randy Jacobson Debra Jacobson</i>
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(USE ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)

Tax Year: 2025

Scale: 1:257.96 Basemap: Cadastral Application Base Map



## Summary

### Primary Information

Property Category: RP

Subcategory: Commercial Property

Geocode: 25-0896-36-4-07-25-0000

Assessment Code: 0014005510

### Primary Owner:

MONTANA CLIMATE CONTROL SERVICES INC  
PO BOX 241  
HARRISON, MT 59735-0241  
Note: See Owners section for all owners

### Property Address:

162 PARK AVE  
HARRISON, MT 59735

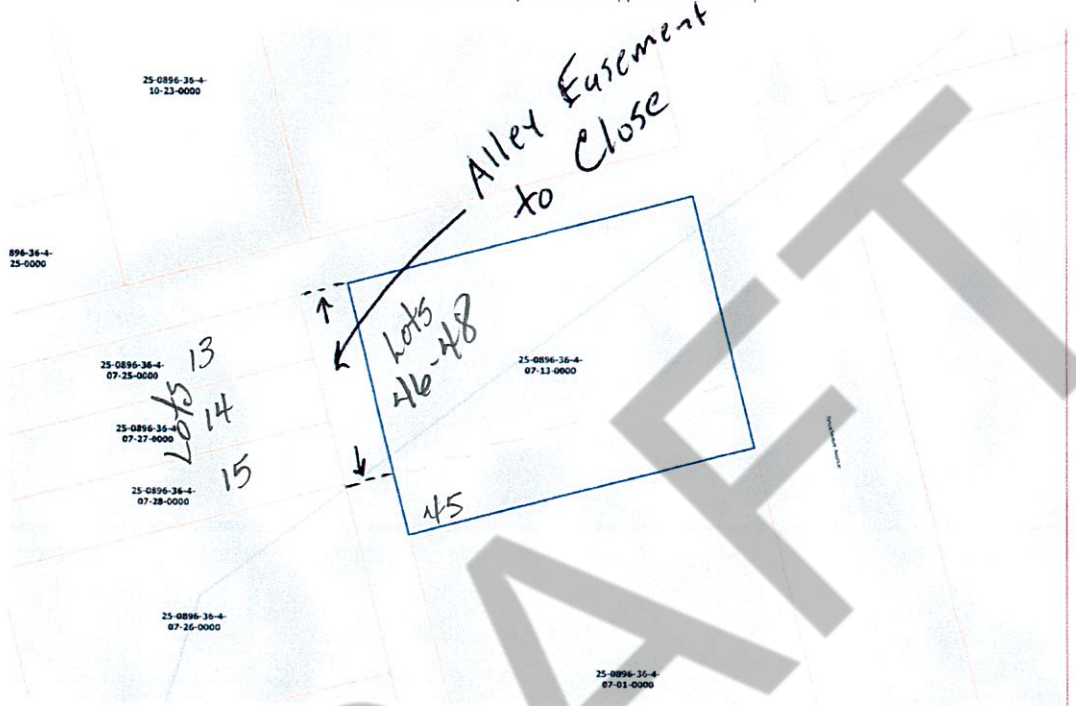
Certificate of Survey:

Legal Description: BRIDGES ADD (HARRISON), S36, T01 S, R02 W, BLOCK 9, Lot 13, PLAT 2/394R

Last Modified: 10/14/2025 19:25:54 PM

Tax Year: 2025

Scale: 1:388.50 Basemap: Cadastral Application Base Map



## Summary

### Primary Information

Property Category: RP

Subcategory: Residential Property

Geocode: 25-0896-36-4-07-13-0000

Assessment Code: 0014001500

### Primary Owner:

JACOBSON RANDY &  
PO BOX 221  
HARRISON, MT 59735-0221  
Note: See Owners section for all owners

### Property Address:

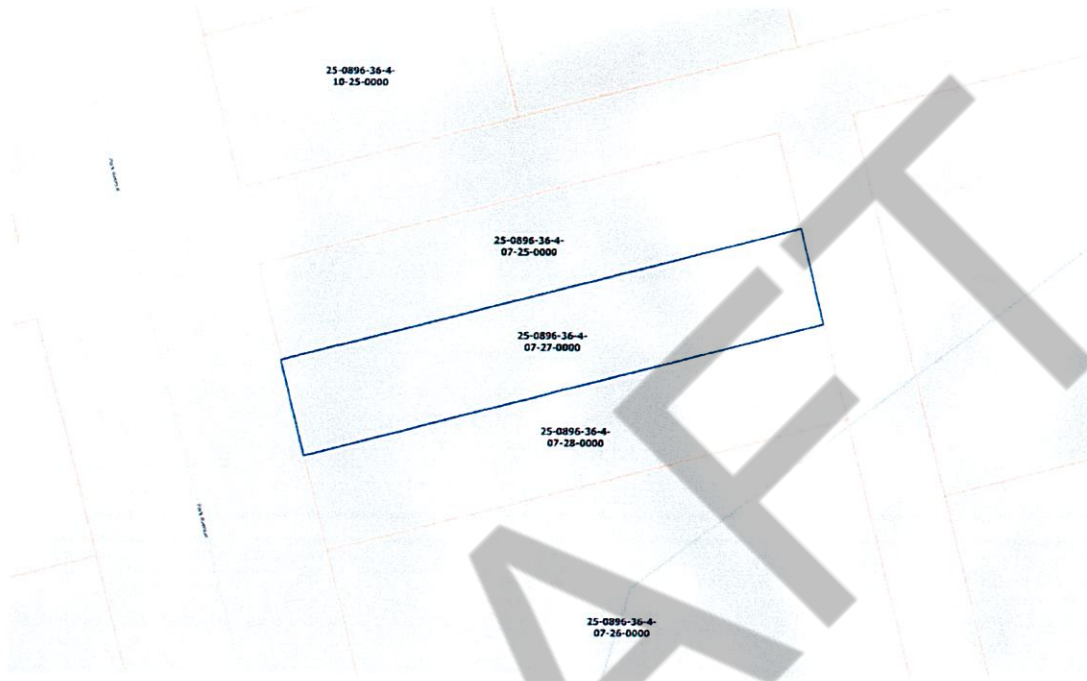
Certificate of Survey:

Legal Description: BRIDGES ADD (HARRISON), S36, T01 S, R02 W, BLOCK 9, Lot 45 - 48

Last Modified: 10/14/2025 19:25:54 PM

Tax Year: 2025

Scale: 1:257.97 Basemap: Cadastral Application Base Map



## Summary

### Primary Information

Property Category: RP

Subcategory: Commercial Property

Geocode: 25-0896-36-4-07-27-0000

Assessment Code: 0014005520

### Primary Owner:

MONTANA CLIMATE CONTROL SERVICES INC  
PO BOX 241  
HARRISON, MT 59735-0241  
Note: See Owners section for all owners

### Property Address:

PARK AVE  
HARRISON, MT 59735

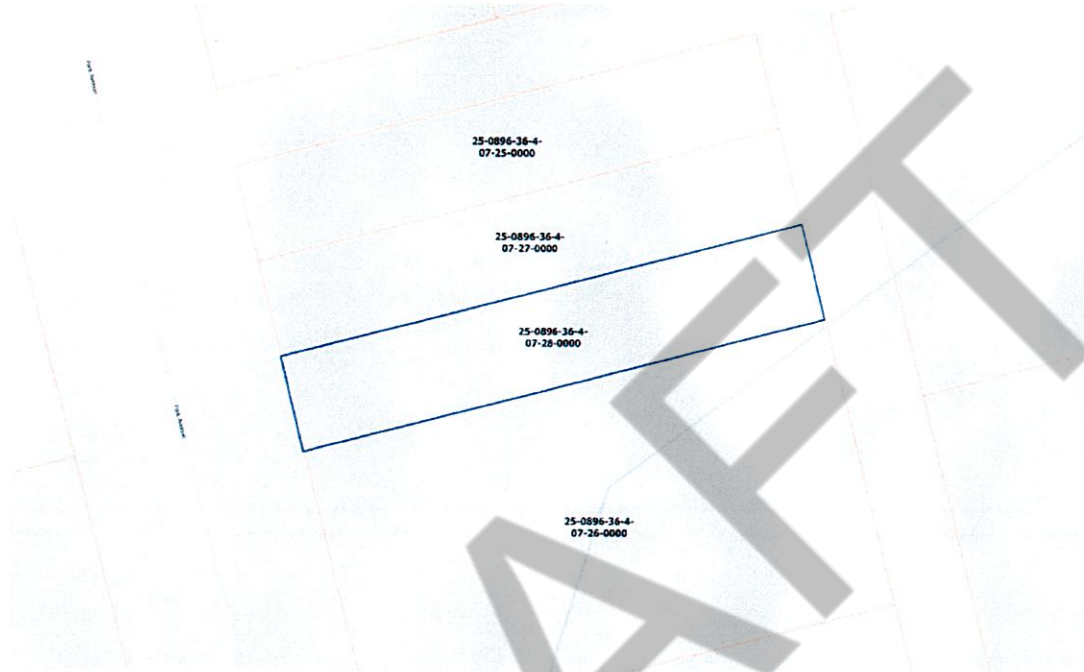
Certificate of Survey:

Legal Description: BRIDGES ADD (HARRISON), S36, T01 S, R02 W, BLOCK 9, Lot 14, PLAT 2/394R

Last Modified: 10/14/2025 19:25:54 PM

Tax Year: 2025

Scale: 1:257.98 Basemap Cadastral Application Base Map



## Summary

### Primary Information

Property Category: RP

Subcategory: Commercial Property

Geocode: 25-0896-36-4-07-28-0000

Assessment Code: 0014005530

### Primary Owner:

MONTANA CLIMATE CONTROL SERVICES INC  
PO BOX 241  
HARRISON, MT 59735-0241  
Note: See Owners section for all owners

### Property Address:

PARK AVE  
HARRISON, MT 59735

Certificate of Survey:

Legal Description: BRIDGES ADD (HARRISON), S36, T01 S, R02 W, BLOCK 9, Lot 15, PLAT2/394R

Last Modified: 10/14/2025 19:25:54 PM

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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Comments on the proposal are welcome. Written public comments may be submitted or delivered to the Madison County Commissioners' Office, P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, MT 59755; or emailed to [madco@madisoncountymt.gov](mailto:madco@madisoncountymt.gov). Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 26, 2026.

Please Publish: 1/8/2026 and 1/15/2026