



Doc #: 223868 Pages: 7 Book: Page:

STATE OF MONTANA MADISON COUNTY

Recorded 1/13/2026 11:15 AM KOI: COM-TRRL

Paula McKenzie, CLERK & RECORDER

Fee: \$ 0.00

BY: Paula McKenzie

To: FILED, .

Madison County Commissioners' Work Session Meeting

January 5, 2026, 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
Christine Preece, Nursing Home Administrator
Pat Jacobs, Architecture Trio
Darrell Schulte, County Forester
Craig Schroder, Undersheriff
Susan Hanson, Human Resources
Jennifer Tezak, Human Resources
Mati Bishop, The Madisonian
Joanne Galiger, Nursing Home Foundation
Kassie Marsh, TRMCC
Bill Buyan, Resident
Peggy Buyan, Resident
Trevor Walter, Candidate District 69
John Roberts, Resident
Michael Reeve, MMGC
Melissa Brummell, TRMCC
Blake Amberson, MMGC
Bruce Peterson, Resident

Commissioner Todd started the meeting with a moment of Silence for the departed soul in Sheridan.

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 of Architecture Trio said to be on the lookout for last-minute items that need to be addressed and for someone to approve the samples. She is currently coordinating the IT meetings. She has already met with the State IT representative. Pat will send the Commissioners a copy of the cost estimator. Currently in the process of initiating the approval with the Virginia City Preservation Review Committee.

Commissioner Todd expressed that he is awaiting a return call concerning the hazardous materials and prefers to exercise caution by initiating a formal bidding procedure. The Mayor of Virginia City is in the process of overseeing the relocation of the white shed.

Comment: Jacobs and Hedges. Discussion: Commissioner Todd and Commissioner Gilman.

3.2. Payroll Discussion

Commissioner Todd, the issues concerning the coding for the holiday with UKG have been purportedly resolved, according to the company's representative. However, this assertion is inaccurate; the problem remains unresolved. All aspects had to be manually re-coded. UKG entered into a three-party contract, which is the root of the county's issues.

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

3.3. Nursing Home Discussion

Bruce Peterson, a resident of Madison County, is of the opinion that taxpayers are not receiving an adequate return on the taxes allocated to nursing homes. He also contends that these facilities require a greater number of residents and has expressed concern regarding this matter. Bruce asked when the down fall began

Peggy Buyan, a resident of Madison County, inquired about the number of residents at both nursing homes over the past five years. She has also been approached by two TRMCC employees who voiced concerns about their employment and expressed apprehension about speaking openly due to fears of retaliation. Additionally, she has concerns about individuals being denied entry to the nursing homes. Peggy cited another company that had problems and ended up hiring a third-party survey company. Peggy recommended that the county look into doing this.

Joanne Galiger, with the Nursing Home Foundation, spoke about an employee who was on medical leave. When she returned to work with no stipulations, her hours were reduced. Her hours were reduced so much that she could not get her benefits. She ended up getting an attorney to help with getting her hours back.

Jim Kratz participated via Webex and noted that the survey referenced by Peggy Buyan was distributed to former employees rather than the community. He further noted that, given the

geographically dispersed nature of the employees, it would be challenging for the Commissioner to be fully informed about activities across all departments. Jim also agreed that the county should have a third-party investigation.

Paul March, President of the Nursing Home Foundation, joined via WebEx and raised concerns about the ice cream machines at both facilities. He asked whether the machine at MVM is operational. He also questioned why the machine at TRMCC is being used to sell ice cream, noting that it was purchased for residents, their family members, and employees. He asked how much money was raised from selling the ice cream and where that money went. Paul also asked which kitchen items were repaired using an outside service vendor; the cost of those repairs could go toward matching funds for the appropriation. He asked whether those repairs are complete. If the repairs are completed, receipts must be provided and passed on to the US Department of Agriculture. Paul Marsh suggested having an administrator for each facility.

Melissa Brummell with TRMCC commented that the ice cream machine is working at MVM. Regarding the ice cream machine at TRMCC, the money that is generated goes into the Sunshine fund. This fund is used for residents.

**** Commissioner Todd read a message from the webex screen**** Ice cream donated money paid for the TRMCC resident Christmas presents in 2025 due to not having an auxiliary. The revenue account number is 341010. Ice cream sales started at TRMCC in April 2024, not 2021. Employees are advised to follow the chain of command: first, talk to their direct supervisor. They will also be interviewing current employees.

Dan Allhands joined via WebEx and informed the company that the survey was conducted by CMS, based in Helena, Montana. He asked about admissions at TRMCC and about people unable to afford it, and then asked who is on the ID Committee. Dan is concerned about morale within the workforce and suggested adding the survey company to next week's agenda.

Trever Walter, a candidate for District 69, discussed his father's stay in the nursing home and noted that the facility was fully occupied except for the designated COVID beds. He has also had employees from the nursing homes reach out to him, expressing fears of retaliation.

Bill Buyan, a Madison County resident, raised concerns that some of the same questions were raised at a previous meeting. He feels the commissioners have not taken these issues seriously and is concerned about the number of residents at the nursing home.

Kassie Marsh, a Sheridan resident, recommended that the Commissioners consider hiring a survey company to interview former employees.

Christine Preece, the Madison County Nursing Home Administrator, stated that the ID Committee comprises Melissa, Trena, Tawnay, Brendan, and Leona. Christine advocates for the involvement of all members. The admissions process includes Jordan and Dorothy Pierce. Occasionally, Christine also participates in admissions. Additionally, she is instructing Tammy on financial matters, including verifying insurance and ensuring that residents can meet their financial obligations. Ruby Valley Hospital is still having issues with an occupational therapist, so at this point, they cannot accept Medate stays. Christine explained that PT therapy can only be done from the waist down, but occupational therapy can address the entire body. Currently, 3 are under review for admission to the nursing home. Nursing homes need to be careful about admitting residents. They cannot take violent individuals or those with dementia. We are not a locked unit.

Jennifer Tezak of Madison County Human Resources stated that the county has a grievance filing policy and a retaliation clause. If someone brings a claim against someone or the facility and feels retaliated against, HR will investigate. She also stated that if people will not come forward, we don't know anything is wrong, and you can't fix what you don't know is broken.

Commissioner Gilman asked Christine to explain to him and others the reason why the nursing homes can not take Medate currently.

Commissioner Todd stated that the revenue generated from TRMCC ice cream sales appears to be an appropriate use of the funds. However, if this use contravenes the original intention of the donation, corrective measures will be necessary. Additionally, Commissioner Todd noted that during an administrative period prior to the current one at TRMCC, there were significant concerns about operations within the facility. Bill recalled visiting the facility to retrieve the ashes of human remains in the company of the county attorney. Commissioner Todd also stated that he believes the county has a robust team in place at both facilities. If individuals or employees at these facilities have concerns, they need to come forward and get past the hearsay. Commissioner Todd also stated that retaliation is illegal.

Comment: Peterson, Peggy Buyan, Galiger, Brummell, Walter, Bill Buyan, and Marsh. (Webex Kratz, Marsh, and Allhands) . Discussion: Commissioner Gilman, Commissioner Todd, and Commissioner Nye.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

5.1. MMGC - November Financial Report

Blake Amberson and Michael Reeve from the Madison Meadows Golf Course provided a financial update. Financial figures across all categories remain at record high levels. Stedman is performing exceptionally well in the pro shop and in the children's programs. He is also completing his PGA certification and becoming a certified teaching professional. The next step is a five-year plan for a new pro shop.

Comment: Amberson and Reeve. Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Gilman, and Commissioner Nye.

5.2. Axoloti Lakes Road Repair

Darrell Schulte, Madison County Forester, came and stated that the State of Montana approached him regarding Axoloti Lakes Road and asked whether the county would be

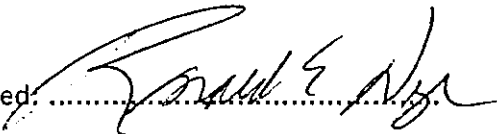
interested in reconditioning and blading two and a half miles of the road and covering the culvert. This will bring in two to three logging projects.

Comment: Schulte. Discussion: Commissioner Gilman and Commissioner Todd.

Adjournment

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.


The upcoming Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Building in Virginia City, Montana.

Signed: 

Date: 1/13/2026

Ronald E. Nye, Commissioner, Chairman

Date Approved: January 13, 2026

Signed: 

Date: 1/13/2026

Minutes prepared by:

Sarah Carlson, Commissioners' / Airport Assistant

Attest: 

Date: 1/13/26

Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County

