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STATE OF MONTANA MADISON COUNTY

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Paula McKenzie, CLERK & RECORDER

Fees: 0.00

To: FILED,,

BY: *Alison Elser, Deputy*

**Madison County
Commissioners Special Meeting**

January 27, 2026, 1:00 pm 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
Duncan Hedges, Sheriff
Craig Schroder, Undersheriff
Wes Heavrin, Deputy
Kacey Smart, Sanitation
Justin Gatewood, Mayor of Virginia City
Timber Pruett, Virginia City Clerk/Treasurer
Mati Bishop, The Madisonian

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. Virginia City / Madison County - Sheriff's MOU

Colton Lauer, the attorney representing Madison County, prepared documents for the meeting on behalf of the county and indicated that several considerations must be taken into account, including the town's budgeted expenditures for services, the cost of service, and the recent contractual agreement with Twin Bridges.

Virginia City Mayor Justin Gatewood addressed several topics, including the similarities with Twin Bridges and Sheridan in having more mills. He noted that Virginia City has historically allocated funds to the Sheriff's Office, a practice uncommon in other towns, and requested this be considered. Virginia City has only 34 mills, so paying 14 mills

amounts to nearly half the town's total. He also highlighted that the police station is located in Virginia City, yet fewer than 1% of emergency calls in 2024 originated from there.

Timber Pruett, Clerk and Treasurer of Virginia City, reported that Virginia City was \$550 in deficit last year.

Kacey Smart, a resident, proposed establishing a fixed fee for each emergency call received.

Commissioner Todd reiterated the equitable agreement in accordance with the arrangement maintained by the county with Twin Bridges. He expressed a preference for the percentage of revenue over the 17 mills and inquired about the enactment date of the resort tax. Furthermore, he observed that the other towns do not receive any resort tax, unlike Virginia City.

Commissioner Gilman stated that he previously worked for the town of Sheridan and understands the town's budgetary limitations. He also stated that the county is currently well funded and that requesting 17 mills is excessive. Commissioner Gilman expressed support for restricting expenditures.

Commissioner Nye agrees with Commissioner Gilman and noted that the Town of Virginia City faces significant demand with a limited budget.

Commissioner Todd moved to proceed to mediation. The motion was not seconded by any other board member; therefore, it was deemed to have died on the floor.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Gilman moved to accept \$1,100.00 with a 5% annual increase per year. Commissioner Nye seconded the motion.

For: Duke Gilman and Ron Nye.

Against: William Todd.

Motion passed.

Comment: Lauer, Smart, Gatewood, and Pruett. Discussion: Commissioner Nye, Commissioner Todd, and Commissioner Todd.

Adjournment

RESOLVED: Commissioner Todd moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gilman seconded the motion.

For: Duke Gilman, Ron Nye, and William Todd.

Motion passed.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm.

The upcoming Regular Commissioner meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 10:00 am, in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Building in Virginia City, Montana.

Signed: *Ronald E. Nye*
Ronald E. Nye, Commissioner, Chairman
Date Approved: February 3, 2026

Date: *2/3/2026*

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

Date: *2/3/2026*

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

Date: *2/3/26*

