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STATE OF MONTANA MADISON COUNTY

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Paula McKenzie, CLERK & RECORDER

Fee: \$ 0.00

To: FILED, ,

BY: 

**Madison County
Commissioners' Work Session Meeting**

February 2, 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, Chairman
William A. Todd, Commissioner, District 3

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
Amy Robbins, Fairground Manager
Kristi Millhouse, Finance Director
Todd Gilstrap, Madison County Road Dept.
Duncan Hedges, Sheriff
Craig Schroder, Undersheriff
Trent Zimmerman, MVM
Deb Bradley, Little League
Travis Blecha, Little League

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

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

Trent Zimmerman, who works at Madison Valley Manor, said the community's remarks directed at the commissioners are troubling. He understands this is a passionate topic. The nursing home administrator is his boss. They are not friends, and she has neither seen his statement nor attempted to coerce him into making it. Everyone should treat each other with dignity and respect, even if we disagree. After watching the previous commissioner's meeting, Trent found the comments directed at the Commissioner and the Nursing Home Administrator to be inflammatory, demeaning, and disrespectful. The statement that upset him most was directed at the housekeepers, calling them a dime a dozen. Our housekeepers are in a demanding professional environment. It is common for them to clean and disinfect a room at around 75 degrees while wearing a gown, rubber gloves, a mask, and sometimes a face shield. 9:46

Comment: Zimmerman. Discussion: None.

3. Report of Committees

3.1. Madison County Courthouse Rehabilitation and Addition

Ask Pat Jacobs of Architecture Trio, who joined via WebEx, updated the Commissioners on the permitting process, reviewed possible permitting fees, and provided the Commissioners with dates for the HPAC review. She received documents from the consultant last week and is currently reviewing them.

Comment: Jacobs (Webex). Discussion: Commissioner Todd.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

5.1. Lake Road Bridge Preliminary Plans

Jeremiah Theys and Karl Yakawich of Great West Engineering joined via WebEx. They discussed the Lake Road Bridge closure timeline, the county's preferred asphalt grade, and aspects of the grant, guardrails, and fencing.

Comment: Gilstrap, Yakawich, and Theys (WebEx). Discussion: Commissioner Nye, Commissioner Todd, and Commissioner Gilman.

5.2. Tourism Grant / Event Center

Shawna Lutgen, Madison County Grants Manager, joined via WebEx and informed the Commissioner that the county cannot obtain an extension for this grant and that the work must be completed within 6 to 8 months to receive the remainder of the grant.

Comment: Lutgen (WebEx). Discussion: Commissioner Nye, Commissioner Gilman, and Commissioner Todd.

5.3. Pavilion Project

Jeremiah Theys of Great West Engineering joined via WebEx and informed the Commissioners that Great West Engineering cannot assist with construction inspections, such as plumbing and electrical, and recommended that the county contract with SMA to help with this project.

Comment: Theys and Lutgen (WebEx). Discussion: Commissioner Todd.

5.4. Fairgrounds Grant Opportunity

Amy Robbins, the Madison County Fairground Manager, proposed to the Commissioners that they apply for a Historic Preservation Grant to complete the fairgrounds pavilion project. Commissioner Nye noted that he would prefer to consider the square building.

Comment: Robbins and Theys (WebEx). Discussion: Commissioner Nye, Commissioner Todd, and Commissioner Gilman.

5.5. Fairgrounds Website

Amy Robbins, the Madison County Fairground Manager, requests that the fairground have its own site for advertisements and event schedules. Commissioner Todd agreed that the fairgrounds should have its own website and suggested Squarespace, which integrates with Stripe and has been approved by the county.

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

5.6. Twin Bridges Park Board and Vigilantly Little League Representatives

Deb Bradley and Travis Blecha from Twin Bridges Little League discussed plans to expand the senior baseball field at the park near the fairgrounds to a full-size field. The project involves relocating the road to private property, with support from the property owners. According to Madison County Attorney Colton Lauer, the process requires first submitting a petition with at least 10 signatures from residents in the road district, then presenting it to the commissioners, and forming a views committee. Little League members will meet with Colton Lauer to understand the steps needed to initiate the road relocation.

Comment: Lauer, Bradley, and Blecha. Discussion: Commissioner Nye, Commissioner Todd, and Commissioner Gilman

5.7. Amendment / Addition to the Employee Handbook

Kristi Millhouse, Madison County Finance Director, joined via WebEx and noted that the handbook needs clarification on the county workweek, which runs from Sunday to Saturday.

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

5.8. Virginia City MVD Contract

MVD has formally announced its intention to amend the service schedule, indicating an increase from one day per week to two days per week. The assigned service days are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday.

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

5.9. USDA Lease Extension Rate for Lease 57-0325-06-005

The Commissioner received information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requesting an updated rate for the new lease that is to be signed this year. Commissioner Todd seeks to determine the comparable price per square foot for a commercial office lease.

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

5.10. Sheriff's Wage Discrepancy

Commissioner Todd stated that Whipple possesses all the necessary documentation and is actively engaged in the work. Once results are available, they will contact Commissioner Todd.

Comment: Hedges and Schroder. Discussion: Commissioner Todd.

5.11. IGT Funds for MVM in 2025

This item was resolved after the agenda was posted.

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

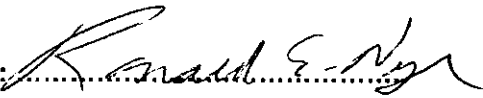
Adjournment


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 11:18 am.

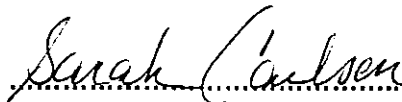
The upcoming Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Building in Virginia City, Montana.

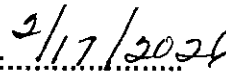
Signed: 

Date: 

Ronald E. Nye, Commissioner, Chairman

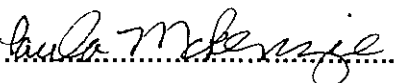
Date Approved: February 17, 2026

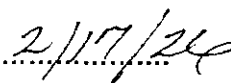
Signed: 

Date: 

Minutes prepared by:

Sarah Carlson, Commissioners' / Airport Assistant

Attest: 

Date: 

Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County