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STATE OF MONTANA MADISON COUNTY

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Paula McKenzie, CLERK & RECORDER

Fee: \$ 0.00

To: FILED, ,

BY:

*Alisen Elser Deputy*

**Madison County  
Commissioners' Work Session Meeting**

February 9, 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  
Pat Jacobs, Architecture Trio  
Dillan Haugland, Solid Waste Foreman  
Steve Primm, Solid Waste Board  
Todd Morstein, Dillon Disposal  
Sheri Jarvis, VC Schoolhouse  
Trena Dagenhart  
Peggy Buyan

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

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

Trena Dagenhart, a former employee of Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center, provided a statement outlining her reasons for departure and conveyed her concerns to the commissioners.

Peggy Buyan, a resident of Madison County, has expressed her concerns regarding the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center.

**3. Report of Committees**

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

Pat Jacobs of Architecture Trio discussed the bidding process and the pre-bid meeting. She has received the consultant drawings, and the cost estimate came in on budget. Items she is continuing to finalize are the demolition of the white garage and a possible traffic study for construction traffic plans, as well as related documentation and filing fees with the town

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

#### **4. Unfinished Business**

None

#### **5. New Business**

##### **5.1. Garbage Hauling / Tipping Fees, Beaverhead County**

Todd Morstein, on behalf of Dillon Disposal, submitted a letter requesting that Madison County remit tipping fees. Dillan Haugland, the Madison County Solid Waste Foreman, provided the Commissioners with information from the Beaverhead Solid Waste scale receipts. Colton Lauer, the Madison County Attorney, stated that Madison County is not obligated to pay tipping fees. These tipping fees are from companies and residents who have contracted with Dillon Disposal to pick up their trash instead of using the county dump sites.

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

##### **5.2. Request for Letter of Support for Comprehensive Permitting Reform**

Alexandra Amonette of the Citizens Climate Lobby participated via WebEx and requested that the Commissioners issue a letter of support for comprehensive permitting reform. This reform aims to enable the United States to expedite energy development while maintaining protections for public health and community input.

Comment: Amonette (WebEx). Discussion: Commissioner Gilman.

##### **5.3. Beehive Basin Road Variance Request**

Commissioner Todd indicated that it may be feasible to secure a variance at a future date to include this in a comprehensive RID. A formal letter from a qualified engineer may be necessary to verify that the road cannot be upgraded to a higher standard. Currently, we cannot process a variance request because the Forest Service must determine how it would transfer the road easement so we can create an RID.

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

##### **5.4. Old VC Schoolhouse Appraisal Discussion**

Commissioner Gilman stated that he obtained the 2020 appraisal and that a new appraisal would cost between \$5,000.00 and \$9,000.00. The property is also subject to deed restrictions: it must be used for public purposes. The land value canceled out the building value, resulting in a "no market value" appraisal. Commissioner Gilman questioned whether the building could be separated from the other building.

Sheri Jarvis, representing the Virginia City Schoolhouse Foundation, observed that numerous grant-giving organizations are hesitant to provide funding to entities that do not possess ownership of their property.

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

#### **5.5. MHPG Application for MC Courthouse Exterior Restoration Project-Item**

Jim Jarvis spoke with Pat Jacobs and noted that the focus is on the exterior of the old courthouse. Jim has drafted a letter of support for the town of Virginia City and the Virginia City Preservation Alliance to produce a letter on the county's behalf. The maximum amount of the grant is \$350,000.00; it is the largest grant in historic preservation in the state of Montana.

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

#### **5.6. Madison Valley Manor - Kitchen Renovation**

Becky Lawson of SMA participated via WebEx to review the final deliverable for the kitchen renovation, including three distinct proposals for kitchen work and the cost for each option. The next phase will involve confirming the funding for the project.

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

#### **Adjournment**

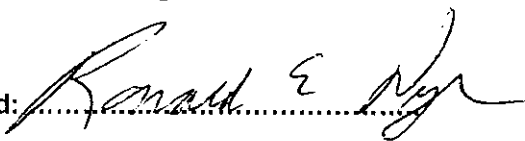
**RESOLVED:** Commissioner Todd moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gilman seconded the motion.

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

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 am.

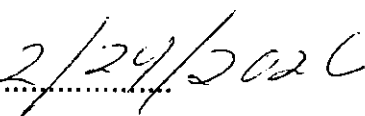
The upcoming Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Building in Virginia City, Montana.

Signed: .....



Ronald E. Nye, Commissioner, Chairman

Date: .....



Date Approved: February 24, 2026

Signed: *Sarah Carlson*

Date: *2/24/2026*

Minutes prepared by:

Sarah Carlson, Commissioners' / Airport Assistant

Attest: *Paula McKenzie Deputy*

Date: *2/24/2026*

Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County

