



*Abbreviated Minutes: Complete Set of Minutes Are on File in The Clerk's Office*

**Madison County  
Commissioner Meeting Minutes  
August 22, 2022**

**Attendees:**

**Todd Smith, Commissioner Chairman  
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner  
Douglas Smith, Commissioner  
Troy Evans, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Kim Muir, County Clerk**

**ACTION ITEMS**

This meeting was streamed electronically.

Pledge of Allegiance: By all

Invocation: Commissioner Doug Smith

Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to amend the agenda to add under discussion items, a Change Order request from Ryan Malm, JRW and Harold Harris Construction and Connect Engineering for the scale house for Solid Waste in the amount of \$4,030. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve Change Order #1 on the scales in the amount of \$4,030 for the scale house at Solid Waste. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

There will be further research for an additional Change Order, \$10,160 requested. A special inspector is needed for the steel building.

Commissioner Todd Smith also made a motion to amend the agenda to correct the Agenda to review and sign Resolution #485 to correct to Amend the Madison County Comprehensive Plan map contained in Article 47, Resolution No.:318 of the Madison County Code Book. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve Resolution #485. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous.

**Calendar Discussion:**

Next Commission Meeting: September 6, 2022. Other September meetings will be September 12 and 19, 2022.

September 1 County Picnic All elected officials will be asked to donate \$100 in prize money for employees.

Altura 1<sup>st</sup> annual picnic Sept. 9 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Schedule of Commissioners:**

Next Commission meetings September 12 and 19, 2022.

Rural -Planning Organization(RPO) meeting. September 7 at 2:00. Commissioner Mendenhall is the Chairman. The meetings will be in the Commission Room.

Commissioner Smith will attend an LHTACT meeting in Moscow September 16-17. 2022

Commissioner Mendenhall will attend an Idaho Office of Emergency Management meeting in October.

Jon Corpany would like to come to see Commissioners

Bradley Petersen's work report. Commissioner Mendenhall will meet with him to discuss.

**Discussion Items:**

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to appoint Dustin Pocock to the District #3 Grooming Board. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous.

Board of Guardians proposal – Joint Powers agreement for the Joint Upper Valley Board of Guardians. This year asking for \$2400. Madison County has approximately 202 people they took care of in the past year. An overseeing board including a commissioner from each county is being requested. They would also like to have a separate board from the general population.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the Upper Valley Board of Guardians Agreement. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

A letter will be prepared for the City of Sugar in response to their letter regarding the impact area.

**Contracts/Documents:**

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to amend the agenda to include the Indigent Defense Grant approval. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the Indigent Defense Grant payment. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to amend the agenda to correct Resolution #485, a Resolution amending the Madison County Comprehensive Plan map contained in Article 47, Resolution No.318, of the Madison County Code Book. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve Resolution #485, a Resolution amending the Madison County Comprehensive Plan map contained in Article 47, Resolution No.318, of the Madison County Code Book. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Routine Matters:**

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the claims presented by the Clerk. The grand total of claims was \$369,332.14. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 8, 2022. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Personnel Actions:**

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the Personnel Actions. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the Certificates of Residency for Carrie Lunstrum-Kosvic, Taden King and Ruthanne Brinkley. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Public Comment:** There was no one present to comment.

**Executive Session:** Employee and indigent matters. Chairman Todd Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:18 a.m. Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(b) employee matters, (d) exempt records - AnnMarie Sorensen, Indigent Clerk and (f) litigation matters. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Todd Smith – yes, Commissioner Mendenhall – yes Commissioner Doug Smith – yes. The motion passed. Commissioner Smith returned to open session at 9:45.

**Ambulance:** Proposal for changes to Ambulance structure.

Troyse is asking, through no issues with the county, to align all accounting practices in the way the monies are handled. The City and Fire District are all audited by Rudd and Co. and the Fire District Commissioners oversee the account. The accounting and business practices are dialed in well. The Ambulance District funds reside within the County budget and when large purchases

are planned, they would like to streamline and have a separate account, but the budget process would be exactly the same. The Fire District receives property tax checks from the Clerk. This would become the same process for the Ambulance district. There would be 2 signatures required on checks processed. They don't feel they have control of the finances and would like to run it like the Fire District. The County would still approve the budget. The City of Rexburg would have no access to the account.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to table the matter until the next meeting on September 6, 2022. Commissioner seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Rick Miller/Taylor Carr:** Altura Community Consulting, Thornton Fire Station.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve Resolution #490 to apply for a CDBG grant, motion to start the Request for Proposal or RFP process for engineering and administration contract with Altura/ECIPDA to apply. Commissioner Douglas Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to sign the Professional Services Contract with Altura/ECIPDA to apply for the grant. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous.

**Rachel Gonzales/Troy Christensen:** Madison Memorial budget presentation. Copies of the budget were presented.

Rachel wanted to acknowledge where we are with healthcare right now. Things are going well and they are stable, but there are a lot of challenges they are trying to catch up on after the pandemic. They are hoping to get back to the basics and focus on the mission and basic purpose of why they are there. She feels good about the budget, with all of the external factors that are out there. They borrowed bond funding and have requirements to report to bond holders and bond trustees. The investment board is included in decisions and they watch the ups and downs of markets. Employees are dealing with inflation and it filters its way through their business.

The budget is representative of all departments and they shoot for 2% of net operating revenue to be competitive and stay viable. They are seeing increases in utilities, insurance costs, repairs and maintenance, advertising and marketing, but have found avenues to reduce supplies. There have been revenue increases in the past 5 years. Medicaid payments have decreased and have impacted the hospital significantly. There are myths about hospitals making money with Covid, but they did not. Troy states that Rudd and Co. completed their audit and he watched their revenues drop significantly to keep employees happy and the hospital running through the pandemic. Employees have received wage increases to keep staffed. They have seen a dramatic increase in bad debt in the patient receivables and many citizens that do not have insurance. They are hopeful this will improve. There is no tax revenue collected for the budget in the next year. Taxes would not save the hospital.

The behavioral health unit is 26.4% of total inpatient days since opening. This is an ongoing need in our community. This is meeting one little piece of community need, but much more is required to meet the demand. The number of admissions, discharges, patient days and all surgery procedures were shown and discussed. With all entities they have about 1100 on staff. As their organization has grown, the turnover is increasing and this year numbers will go up because people don't leave during a crisis, but when it is over they do tend to make a shift over the healthcare system. Troy anticipates the turn over to not go back, but to possibly level out.

In regards to the refinanced bond debt they have paid additional principal and have saved significant money in so doing. Rachel mentions if they make a profit, everything goes back into the employees or to the hospital equipment needs.

Commissioner Mendenhall states that in the community, people will say the county dollars are paying too much to the hospital. He clarifies, the hospital is completely self-sustaining and there is no funding coming from the tax payers.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the Madison Health proposed operating budget for the fiscal year 2023. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Unified Sportsman's Club:** Kari Frisby & Danny Miller, requesting more BLM Acres to the North Madison County Road and Bridge has done a great job for the Sportsman's Club. The Club has applied for two grants to Fish and Game grant and Friends of NRA. If approved, funding would be used to place concrete blocks and to construct another pistol bay at the Club. Fish and Game Road and Bridge will make the bed to set the block on in October. Friends of NRA gives money up front. Fish and Game, has you spend the money and reimburse when they receive invoices. The Sportsman Club has paid for the blocks in the amount of \$37,578.

A map was presented showing the range and explained that they have run into safety concerns with federal land north of them. BLM was spraying for weeds and there were shooting events going on around them. He presented a map and proposed going to Department of the Interior to obtain 3 of their blocks of land for an impact safety zone. The county would acquire the land and we would accept the patents. Going this way would mean they would charge us rent until patented.

A second option would be through an Act through the Defense Reauthorization bill through Congress where the land would come to us and they would patent it over to us. We will lose PILT payments on 640 acres. We would own the land and it would be fenced through a grant. They feel this would improve safety as well as increase fire hazards. Cattle would be grazed a few months out of the year and shooting would be shut down during this period.

Questions were asked about patenting the land, as well as law enforcement the shooting range is placed on.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to allow Road and Bridge to help with construction of the pad to allow for improvements at the gun range. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to allow seeking funding for 640 acres to be acquired to support obtaining the ground either lease or patented. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

The Commissioners expressed appreciation to the Sportsman Club for allowing 4-H kids set up a spot for archery and shooting. High school rodeo, ROTC are also accommodated at the range.

Commissioner Todd Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Approved:

Todd Smith, Commissioner  
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner  
Doug Smith, Commissioner

Attest:

Kim Muir, County Clerk