

**THE WILSON HOTEL
145 TOWN CENTER AVENUE
BIG SKY, MONTANA**

**MINUTES OF THE GALLATIN & MADISON COUNTY COMMISSION
AND BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT MEETING
MAY 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M.**

MEMBERS:

Sarah Blechta	Director
Kevin Germain	Director
Grace Young	Director

GUESTS:

Scott MacFarlane	Gallatin County Commissioner
Jennifer Boyer	Gallatin County Commissioner
Zach Brown	Gallatin County Commissioner
Bill Todd	Madison County Commissioner
Ron Nye	Madison County Commissioner
Dan Allhands	Madison County Commissioner

Minutes prepared from a recording by Allen Johnson of Minutes Solutions Inc.

1. ROLL CALL

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice having been given, the meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. STEVE JOHNSON TRIBUTE

The Board and the community offered a tribute to the late director Steve Johnson.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Kevin Germain, seconded by Grace Young, it was resolved to approve the BSRAD consent agenda, as presented. Motion carried.

The consent agenda included the finance report for March, 2024.

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Old Business

4.1.1 Post Office Update

Al Malinowski of the Big Sky post office announced that a new federally operated post office will be opening across the street from the existing post office. He said the Big Sky post office was originally funded by Resort Tax and has been federally funded by USPS since February, 2024. He offered thanks to those who contributed and confirmed that owners of existing PO boxes will retain their numbers. Montana Senator Steve Daines gave his congratulations for the new post office in a recorded video.

4.1.2 TIGER Grant Update

Danielle Scharff with Sanderson Stewart updated the Board on work completed under the TIGER Grant. A Gallatin County commissioner addressed resident concerns by explaining that leftover grant money was allocated towards transit stops, which was easily translatable from the original project scope at that stage and noted that making amendments of state highway projects is complicated, risky and takes time. Danielle said that the remaining funds will be put towards Kircher Park trail improvements and pathway realignment and that all the work of all projects will likely be completed this season.

4.1.3 BSRAD Government Services Requests

On a motion made by Kevin Germain, seconded by Grace Young, it was resolved to approve funding requests in full and as follows: Big Sky School District, three-year operating request and one-year capital request; Big Sky Fire Department, three-year operating request; and Big Sky Transportation District, three-year operating request. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Kevin Germain, seconded by Grace Young, it was resolved to approve a three-year funding request from Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, as presented, with the condition that both counties are committed. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Kevin Germain, seconded by Grace Young, it was resolved to approve a funding request from Gallatin Canyon County Water and Sewer District and Big Sky Trails, Recreation and Parks District, as presented, for one year. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Kevin Germain, seconded by Grace Young, it was resolved to provide 50% of the funds requested by Big Sky County Water and Sewer District No. 363 for their Water Master Plan and Capital Improvements Plan project at a cost of \$92,500. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Kevin Germain, seconded by Grace Young, it was resolved to allocate \$0 to Big Sky County Water and Sewer District No. 363 for Little Coyote Sewer Access and New Road Engineering and Mountain Village Water Tank Replacement Engineering projects. Motion carried.

The Board offered thanks to the school district, the fire department, and the transportation district for their services.

The Board noted that the water and sewer districts are well-funded and said that future allocations of funds can be offered as needed while the districts are weaned off reliance of the resort tax.

4.1.4 Big Sky Roadmap

Danny Bierschwale, BSRAD Executive Director, presented a document showing the allocation of public funds in relation to elections and governance. He encouraged the community to be involved in decision making and to vote.

4.2 New Business

4.2.1 Little Coyote Traffic Safety Group

Jan Webber, representative of Little Coyote Traffic Safety Group, requested support for restricting left turns off of Highway 64 onto Little Coyote Road but not other access, citing

extreme disproportionate increase in traffic volume, which impacts local residents' safety. A Gallatin County commissioner explained that the county's philosophy for public roads clearly disallows restricting public access to public county roads such as Little Coyote Road.

4.2.2 Gallatin Forest Partnership - Letter of Support

Kathryn Eklund, representative of the Gallatin Forest Partnership, requested support for the Gallatin Forest Partnership proposal for permanent ecological protection in the Big Sky area, showing a map of the region with its counties and forests. Madison County and Gallatin County commissioners made and carried motions to ratify a joint letter of support for the proposal.

4.2.3 World Language Initiative Introduction

Ann Swan, representative of World Language Initiative, described their language education program. A Gallatin County commissioner noted a large increase in demand for translation services and expressed appreciation for the work of World Language Initiative.

4.2.4 Local Government Review

Gallatin County Commissioner Scott MacFarlane encouraged voters to submit recommendations for change to the local government by using their ballots. Sarah Blechta reminded voters to fill their ballot in June, 2024.

4.2.5 BSTRP Assessment Status

Madison County Commissioner Bill Todd updated the Board on the BSTRP Assessment and expressed hope that the county would finish by July 4, 2024.

4.2.6 Land Use Planning Process

Gallatin County Commissioner Jennifer Boyer introduced the Land Use Planning Process as a platform for planning zoning and development of Gallatin County and encouraged the community to use it to submit proposals for land use.

4.2.7 Drought and Deluge Adaptive Management Plan (DDAMP)

Gallatin County Commissioner Jennifer Boyer introduced the Gallatin DDAMP for coordinating and scaling the community's use of the Gallatin watershed.

4.2.8 Incorporation Exploration Study Proposal Selection

In a motion made by Grace Young, seconded by Kevin Germain, it was resolved to accept the proposal of WGM for an incorporation exploration study at a cost of \$329,750. Motion carried.

Sarah Blechta described the process of a subcommittee for selecting a vendor to carry out an incorporation exploration study. Grace Young noted that the subcommittee did a lot of work to find a suitable vendor.

Barbara Rowley emphasized the accomplishments of the community and called on the future government to continue asking why, before asking how.

Jim Delzer asked what the impact would be to current service providers.

The BSRAD Board explained that the vendor would be tasked with gathering facts about all types of potential local government options, including but not limited to incorporation, which

could be available and that decisions about implementing the government would be made in a separate process. Kevin Germain said facts revealed in the study would facilitate a nonpartisan look at a topic which had continued to arise.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cora Neumann introduced herself as a running candidate for senator.

Alanah Griffith introduced herself as a running candidate for representative.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

Kevin Germain announced the next two meetings scheduled for June 4 and June 6, 2024, to review nonprofit applications.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 12:09 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Young
Grace Young (Aug 15, 2024, 10:31 MDT)

Grace Young, Secretary & Treasurer





May 8 2024 Big Sky Resort Area District JCC Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-08-15

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