

3.2 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Projects

3.2.1 Updated Timeline and Criteria

On a motion made by Grace Young, seconded by Sarah Blechta, it was resolved to follow the updated CIP timeline and criteria. Motion carried.

The threshold for borrowing was discussed. Any projects under \$1 million should go through the standard grant process. The BSRAD Board would consider borrowing funds for projects over \$1 million. It was noted that bond terms can only legally extend to the end of the BSRAD term in 2032. It was recommended that the length of the BSRAD term be extended before seeking bonds.

3.2.2 Overview of Projects

A list of CIP Phase Two projects was presented, though not all are ready to move forward.

3.3 Canyon Water Sewer District Financial Summary

Mace Mangold, of the WGM Group, reviewed the history and timeline of the Gallatin Canyon sewer project, expected to start construction in 2027.

The floor was opened for public comments and questions, Mace Mangold answered the following questions:

- Will the sewer system extend beyond the Ophir Elementary School?
- What are the next steps for the project?
- Is there more the community can do to move funding requests forward?
- How does developer capital commitment come into play?
- Will the Quarry development construction begin before they can connect to the sewer system?
- Are the construction schedules for the US-191/MT-64 intersection construction and the GCWSD sewer being coordinated?
- Is the risk of litigation anticipated?

3.4 Gallatin County Future Land Use Map (FLUM)

The second round of community outreach has finished, and further information is available on the Envision Gallatin website.

3.5 Madison County Growth Policy

Five community forums have been held regarding the growth policy, and 400 community survey responses were received. A draft plan is expected in November 2024. Once reviewed through the public hearing process, plan adoption is anticipated in March 2025. Once adopted, the plan will provide a foundation for other land use regulations as well as support for grant funding opportunities.

3.6 Local Government Study Commission

Scott MacFarlane stated that Gallatin County residents voted in June 2024 to commission a study of local government. The November 2024 ballot will allow voters to select candidates to fill seven seats on the local government study commission. The top seven candidates will be appointed after the election. They will be given a \$254,000 budget and granted access to county resources, staff, and consultants as they develop recommendations for local

government that can be put to a vote. Any study commission recommendations will be on the 2026 ballot.

Dan Allhands reported that Madison County residents will vote on the November 2024 ballot to fill three seats for their local government study commission. After training from the Montana State University Local Government Center, the group will conduct public hearings and develop recommendations to be voted on in November 2026. The county must follow any approved changes in government for three years. If a change is not working, it will then go back to the voters for a decision.

Zach Brown provided a few examples in response to a community member asking for examples of the types of recommendations that may be considered.

3.7 Incorporation Study

It was noted that the agenda topic should be the Big Sky Governance Study, which is investigating several governance options including the potential of incorporating as a municipal government. Meg O’Leary, the study’s community outreach person from the M2O Group, and Caitlin Frisbie, the team coordinator from the WGM Group, presented a project update.

The study group is currently analyzing existing Big Sky fiscal and operational conditions and reviewing the Montana Code Annotated. Community engagement will continue in a variety of formats including a survey, three one-hour long community conversations, 15-minute office hour calls, and a public meeting on January 28, 2025. Sarah Blechta explained that incorporation is the most widely known option, but others include creating a new county structure, evolving the Resort Area District, or keeping the current governance structure.

3.8 Jack Creek Road Bridges

The replacement of Jack Creek Road Bridge No. 4 was completed in September 2024. Jack Creek Road Bridge No. 5 is the last one in the corridor requiring replacement. It is still functional and not in bad enough condition for the state to consider it a priority for funding. Other bridges in the county will take priority for the next two cycles, but the Jack Creek Road Bridge No. 5 is on the county’s radar for replacement.

Bill Todd responded to a community member’s question. If emergency notifications required people on the mountain to go down the road, could it handle the traffic?

3.9 Big Sky Trails, Recreation & Parks District MOU Status

The Madison County Attorney’s office expressed concern that the MOU created to shepherd an annual assessment sent the wrong message in conjunction with the resolution system for making annual assessments. The district will instead seek cooperation from the Montana Department of Revenue to ensure annual assessments are completed on schedule.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Local Option Motor Vehicle Tax (MVT)

Scott MacFarlane explained why voters will be asked to approve an increase in the county motor vehicle tax from 0.5% to the maximum allowance of 0.7% to fund road improvements. The capital improvement plan shows that there are more needs than available capital.

Board discussion took place:

Sarah Blechta asked if Big Sky roads were covered by the 70% of funds retained by the county.

Scott MacFarlane reported that Big Sky's main corridors are state roads; there are no county roads in what is considered Big Sky, and the area is not incorporated so does not receive pass-downs.

Sarah Blechta noted that many out-of-state cars are registered in Montana due to the low license registration fees.

Scott MacFarlane explained that Montana has the cheapest license registration in the region resulting in a lot of out-of-state titling, especially for large vehicle fleets and luxury vehicles. Out-of-state titling is a way to capture out-of-state dollars.

The floor was opened for public comments and questions, Scott MacFarlane answered the following questions:

- A community member asked how roads are differentiated and identified as county roads.
- A community member expressed concern that if the tax increase is voted in, the money might be used for something other than roads and bridges.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A resident reported that his property taxes increased 25% and wondered if the county would see any of that extra money.

Scott MacFarlane explained that local government is capped by Montana Code Annotated 15-10-420.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Kevin Germain, seconded by Sarah Blechta and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:06 a.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 (Nov 15, 2024 06:14 MST)

Grace Young, Secretary and Treasurer

October 9 2024 BSRAD JCC Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-11-15

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