

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA  
Held in August 2026**

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on August 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2026.

**AUGUST 5, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Road/Bridge Superintendent Frosty DeBoo, Public – Paul Anderberg, McKenzie Graye, Darrell Burditt, Mayor David Cates

**MONTANA CANCER & CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUBCONTRACT**

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the Montana Cancer & Chronic Disease Management Program Subcontract with Teton County as Administrative Site for fiscal year 2026-27. The County will receive \$42,995.00 to provide early-stage cancer detection services and education. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

**CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH LYNX ALARM SYSTEM**

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve a contract with Lynx for an alarm system for Pondera County, schools, Conrad city offices and county buildings. The total annual amount is \$6,200.00. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

**AGREEMENT WITH MaPS INC FOR MAPPING SERVICES**

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the Letter of Agreement between the County and Mapping and Planning Specialists, Inc. (MaPS, Inc.) for E911 and GPS/GIS mapping services. For the amount of \$3,250.00 for the fiscal year of 2026-27. Motion carried.

**FOURTH DRAWDOWN FOR LAND ACQUISITION PURCHASE PROJECT PAYMENT CORRECTION**

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the correction for drawdown #4 for Land Acquisition Purchase Project for the Pondera County Airport in the amount of \$84,043.50.00 for land purchase. Pondera County required match of \$18,570.00. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

**PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Montana Stockgrowers Association and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Montana Wool Growers Association for predatory animal control in Pondera County. The County will pay \$275.00 for protection of sheep and \$8,283.00 for protection of cattle from predatory animals. Funding for these services comes from an assessment per head paid by the sheep and cattle owners. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE SET FOR PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING**

Commissioner Drishinski moved to set a public hearing for the county's preliminary budget for Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 10:00am in the Commissioners' office. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE SET FOR MEDICAL PERMISSIVE LEVY & SHERIFFS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM PERMISSIVE LEVY**

Commissioner Drishinski moved to set a public hearing to discuss the Medical Permissive Levy and the Sheriff's Retirement System Permissive Levy for Wednesday, August 26 at 10:00am in the Commissioners' office. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

**EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500-APPROVED**

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of 5 20 foot culverts with bands for the Road/Bridge Department in the amount of \$8,300.00. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

**AUGUST 12, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Road/Bridge Superintendent Frosty DeBoo, DES Coordinator Ali Broesder, Undersheriff Bob Bender, Public – Paul Anderberg

**REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 26, 2026 CANCELLED**

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to cancel the regular meeting of the Commissioners scheduled for August 26, 2026. Cancelled due to two Commissioners not able to attend the meeting. Motion carried.

**ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY IRVINES SADDLERY USA**

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for Irvines Saddlery USA for access to Iowa Loop. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

**BIDS FOR 92 COURTHOUSE WINDOWS**

Two bids were received for the purchase and installation of 92 windows for Pondera County Courthouse.

1. Shelby Glass for \$649,500 or \$502,500, depending on the quality of window.
2. Lytle Builders LLC for \$318,000

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to accept the bid from Lytle Builders LLC in the amount of \$318,000. The purchase will be paid from the Capital Improvement fund. Motion carried.

**JULY COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED**

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the July 2026 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

**EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500-APPROVED**

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of two radios for the mobile command center in the amount of \$21,170.40 from Redtail Communications for the Sheriff Department. The purchase will be paid from the 911 funds. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

**EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500-APPROVED**

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the PM audit for the Sheriff's Department radio system in the amount of \$14,476.00 from Redtail Communications. The purchase will be paid from the 911 funds. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

**AUGUST 19, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, DES Coordinator Ali Broesder, Undersheriff Bob Bender

**MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING**

Commissioner Drishinski attended the Pondera Canal & Reservoir Company meeting, August 14<sup>th</sup>. The County is seeking support against the EPA's ruling which permits the dumping of toxic waste-water near Lake Frances.

Commissioner Kuka commented on the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to negotiate the renewal terms of the Law Enforcement Dispatch agreement with representatives from the Conrad City Council and the County.

Town Pump Charitable Foundation granted \$5,450 to Pondera County to purchase automated external defibrillators.

MOU between Alliance for Youth Inc. and Pondera County was approved.

STONEGARDEN GRANT FOR SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the Stonegarden Grant for the amount of \$75,000.00. The grant is for the time period of 2025-2027 and \$68,000 is to be used to purchase a vehicle for the Sheriff's Department. The remainder will be used for overtime pay. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPATCH

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded the approval of the Interlocal Agreement regarding Law Enforcement Dispatch Services and Operation of an Emergency Telephone System with The City of Conrad. The agreement states the annual fee shall be \$52,500.00 for the fiscal year 2026-2027, and a 4.5% annual increase for the next 6 years. Motion carried.

REDTAIL COMMUNICATIONS ESTIMATE FOR INTERCOM SYSTEM

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded the approved walkthrough bid assessment for the Sheriff's Department jail intercom system. Motion carried.

**AUGUST 26, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION  
CANCELLED:**

AUGUST 26 HEARING CONDUCTED ON HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM GAP  
PERMISSIVE LEVY & SHERIFFS' RETIREMENT SERVICE PERMISSIVE LEVY

Attending: Commissioner Jim Morren, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch

The notice of the hearing was published in The Ponderosa Publications August 12 and 19, 2026 issues.

Commissioner Morren called the hearing to review the proposed Health Insurance Premium Gap Permissive Levy & the proposed Sheriff Retirement Service Permissive Levy to order at 10:04 am at the Pondera County Commissioners office, 20 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Conrad. There was no comment from the public and no written comment was received.

**HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM GAP PERMISSIVE LEVY:** The County is authorized to levy up to 24.74 mills for the levy. Clerk & Recorder Farkell explained that the County will most likely not levy for that amount for the upcoming fiscal year.

**SHERIFF RETIREMENT SERVICE PERMISSIVE LEVY:** The County is authorized to levy 0.751 mills for the levy. Clerk & Recorder Farkell stated that the County will most likely not levy for that amount for the upcoming fiscal year.

Hearing closed at 10:10 am.

HEARING ON FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

Attending: Commissioner Jim Morren, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch

The notice of the hearing was published in The Ponderosa Publication August 12 and 19, 2026 issues.

Commissioner Morren called the hearing to review the proposed County budget to order at 10:10 am. at the Pondera County Commissioners office, 20 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Conrad. There were no written comment received.

The Commissioners met with department heads in May and June regarding their department requests. All areas of the budget were discussed among the Commissioners and Clerk and Recorder during the months of June, July and August, resulting in the final

budget which is the subject of the hearing. Those in attendance discussed the major expenditures expected in each department, as well as the revenues to be received.

Being no further discussion, the hearing was closed at 10:17 am.

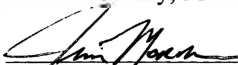
### CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

| <u>FUND</u>                    | Fund Description                |              |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1000                           | GENERAL                         | 38,496.08    |
| 2110                           | ROAD                            | 18,407.42    |
| 2130                           | BRIDGE                          | 823.26       |
| 2140                           | WEED                            | 5,296.56     |
| 2160                           | COUNTY FAIR                     | 212.00       |
| 2170                           | AIRPORT                         | 497.16       |
| 2230                           | AMBULANCE                       | 187.35       |
| 2290                           | EXTENSION SERVICE               | 5,237.02     |
| 2300                           | PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT) | 11,296.75    |
| 2393                           | RECORDS PRESERVATION            | 8,793.97     |
| 2401                           | BRADY LIGHTS                    | 364.63       |
| 2830                           | MAINTENANCE JUNK VEHICLE        | 11.43        |
| 2840                           | NOXIOUS WEED GRANT              | 3,105.00     |
| 2850                           | 911 EMERGENCY                   | 20,296.98    |
| 2860                           | LAND USE PLANNING               | 400.00       |
| 2866                           | NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL     | 225.62       |
| 2894                           | ST ALLOC FED MINERAL ROY        | 10,000.00    |
| 2958                           | EP (DES) GRANTS                 | 320.71       |
| 2962                           | LOR FOUNDATION GRANT            | 121.00       |
| 2963                           | ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT      | 3,709.52     |
| 2965                           | INNOVATION BEH HEALTH           | 3,630.20     |
| 2971                           | WIC GRANT                       | 72.66        |
| 2973                           | MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH           | 11.43        |
| 2976                           | IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT       | 171.72       |
| 2978                           | CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT           | 108.16       |
| 2980                           | HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT        | 2,083.00     |
| 4012                           | GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMP        | 188728.60    |
| 4013                           | ROAD/BRIDGE EQUIP PURCHASE      | 62,500.00    |
| 7920                           | REFUND FUND                     | 2,190.55     |
| TOTAL CLAIMS                   |                                 | \$387,298.78 |
| TOTAL PAYROLL                  |                                 | \$364,382.36 |
| TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS |                                 | \$751,681.14 |

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2026

Pondera County, Montana.

  
Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Kody L. Farkell, Clerk & Recorder



August 2026