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

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on March 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026.

MARCH 4, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Road/Bridge Superintendent Frosty DeBoo, Public- Paul Anderberg, Ken Judisch, Tyler Judisch

Public Comment-
Ken and Tyler Judisch commented on the condition of Valstad Road. Frosty DeBoo gave his thoughts on what would work to prevent washouts.

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Morren and Commissioner Drishinski met with Logan Health Emergency Services Management team regarding ambulance services.

Commissioners received a letter requesting support from Tiber Water for a grant to install a 4 inch waterline along Sollid Road.

MACO BY-LAW CHANGES
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve a MACO By-Law change, titled "Joint Powers Agreement Montana Association of Counties Property & Casualty Trust" allowing for the option of the county being it's own insurance agent. Motion carried.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY TYSON RAMBO
Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for Tyson Rambo on Bullhead Road for a 12 inch irrigation pipeline. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

UPDATE OF PERSONNEL POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL
Commissioner Kuka moved to add to the Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual to allow for a health insurance stipend instead of taking the county supplied coverage. Motion failed due to no second.

MARCH 11, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Road/Bridge Superintendent Frosty DeBoo, Undersheriff Bob Bender, DES Coordinator Ali Broesder

MACO MEMBER CYBERSECURITY & TECHNOLOGIES SERVICES AGREEMENT
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the agreement with Montana Association of Counties (MACO) for Cybersecurity & Technologies Services, in the amount of $149.70 per month. With these services, MACO will transition Pondera County from .org to .gov on emails. Motion carried.

CONTRACT WITH ELECTRO CONTROLS
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve a contract with Electro Controls for installation and programing for the HVAC system. In the amount of $1,977.00. Motion carried.

THIRD DRAWDOWN FOR LAND ACQUISITION PURCHASE PROJECT PAYMENT

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve drawdown #3 for Land Acquisition Purchase Project for the Pondera County Airport in the amount of $12,820.00 for land purchase. Pondera County's required match of 5% cost is $641.00. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

FINAL PAYMENT FOR LAND ACQUISITION

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded the final payment for the Bouma land purchase in the amount of $168,320. Pondera County required match of 5% cost of $8,416.00. Motion carried.

DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to designate the following polling places for the June 2, 2026 Federal Primary Election and the November 3, 2026 Federal General Election:

Brady Community Hall	12:00pm – 8:00pm
Pondera Center (Conrad)	7:00am - 8:00pm
Valier Civic Center	12:00pm - 8:00pm
Heart Butte High School	7:00am - 8:00pm

ELECTION JUDGE APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to appoint the following as election judges for the 2026 Federal Primary Election and the Federal General Election:

Clint Rouns	Cody Seccomb
Jennifer Styren	Alice Garman
Bonnie Hjelm	Bob Hjelm
Diana Agre	Vicki Ophus
Rhonda Bender	Casey Drishinski
Meagan Heinen	Kim Hofstad
Mary Sauer	Ron Widhalm
Ali Broesder	Bev Widhalm
Carol Johns	Terri Peters
Gail Rutherford	Mona Bremner
Lindsey Weaselhead	Cheryl Curry
Donna Mae Minarik	Mary Jean Brophy
McKenzie Graye	Michelle Minarik-Holland
Rebecca Haworth	Sandy Broesder
Sheron Curry	Terry Aakre
Amy Zimbelman	

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF THE POST ELECTION AUDIT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Kuka moved to appoint Jolene Sawyer, Brandy Egan, and Becky Kujava as the Post Election Audit Committee for the 2026 Federal Primary Election and the Federal General Election. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

SET DATE, TIME, PLACE TO CANVASS JUNE 2 ELECTION RESULTS

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to set June 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Office as the date, time, and place for the Canvass of the 2026 Federal Primary Election. Motion carried.

SET DATE, TIME, PLACE TO CANVASS NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION RESULTS

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to set November 16, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Office as the date, time, and place for the Canvass of the 2026 Federal General Election. Motion carried.

FEBRUARY COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the February 2026 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the purchase of 14 steel culverts for the Road/Bridge Department in the amount of $10,884.50 from Pacific Steel, paid out of the BARSAA fund. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of 2 Plat Map Cabinets for the Clerk and Recorder Office in the amount of $10,952.00 from Government Forms and Supplies paid from the Clerk & Recorder Preservation Fund. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the purchase of radio repeaters for mobile radios for the Sheriff Department in the amount of $2,000.53 from Capital Communications, paid out of the 911 fund. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL SHIFTS FOR DISPATCHERS
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve additional shifts for the dispatchers in the amount of $12,500.00, for the remainder of the fiscal year, paid out of the 911 fund. There will be up to 12 extra shifts per month to help with scheduling. Commission Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the purchase of an encryption licenses from Motorola for the Sheriff Department in the total amount of $14,000.50 ($13,200.50 for licenses and equipment and $800.00 for installation), paid out of the 911 fund. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

MARCH 18, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public-Paul Anderberg

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Final report was received for Cares Act money, in the amount of $1,148,142.00 from the US Treasury.

Commissioners sent a letter of support to receive a federal grant for patrol vehicles for the Sheriff Department.

Due to the extreme wind, Commissioners placed temporary fire restrictions for burning debris piles over the weekend.

Commissioners sent a letter of support for Tiber Water Company to install 9 miles of 4 inch water line along Sollid Road.

REQUEST FOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL APPROVED
County Health Nurse Shannon Elings requested permission to attend the Preparedness Summit in Baltimore, Maryland beginning April 12-16, 2026. This is an all-expenses paid scholarship opportunity including travel costs, hotel stay, daily per diem, membership and registration. Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the out-of-state travel. Motion carried.

ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH MOU
Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded the approval of a MOU with Alliance for Youth, in the amount of $14,775.00 for one year. This MOU is issued in support of the Regional Prevention Specialist. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO PONDERA COUNTY BUDGET

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #21 – 2025/26
AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO
PONDERA COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS the Montana Code Annotated, Section 7-6-4006(4), grants the Board of County Commissioners the power and authority to amend the budget during the fiscal year by conducting public hearings at regularly scheduled meetings; and

WHEREAS Pondera County Commissioners approved the appropriations budget for the Pondera County during its regular budget approval process and correction in revenues and expenditures budget have been identified; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County that the budget be corrected as follows:

Revenue Amount	Description	Prior Amount	New
2964-341009	AFY Grant Revenue	$10,138	$24,913

Expenditure Amount	Description	Prior Amount	New
2964-448-440002-110	Salaries	$5,642	$16,183
2964-448-440002-140	Benefits	$3,061	$6,935
2964-448-440002-210	Supplies	$0	$360
2850-201-420750-110	Salaries	$0	$8,750
2850-201-420750-140	Benefits	$0	$3,750
2850-201-420750-949	Special Equip	$582,331	$569,831

Adopted this 18th day of March, 2026 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Drishinski, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective on passage and approval.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Jim Morren
Jim Morren, Chair

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
Thomas A Kuka, Member

ATTEST: */s/ Kody L Farkell*
Kody L Farkell, Clerk and Recorder

/s/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

MARCH 25, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, DES Coordinator Ali Broesder, Public-Paul Anderberg

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Drishinski commented on North Central Area Agency on Aging Havre Senior Center.

Commissioner Morren reminded everyone on the upcoming Sentinel Town Hall Meeting, April 1st.

CLAIM FOR INDIGENT BURIAL APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve payment of $750 for a burial of indigent resident of the county. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING APRIL 1, 2026 CANCELLED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to cancel the regular meeting of the Commissioners scheduled for April 1, 2026. Commissioners will be attending the MACRS Annual Conference in Great Falls. Motion carried.

PSAP CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to apply for the 2026 PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) Certification. PSAP Certification is required for each local or tribal government entity that hosts a primary PSAP (dispatch area) to receive quarterly funding. Motion carried.

CONTRACT WITH RELIANCE SYSTEMS

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the contract with Reliance Systems for an Inmate SMS & Phone Location Agreement. The inmates will be charged $.21 per minute, and in return, the County will receive 35% of that charge. Motion carried.

DIS TECHNOLOGIES SERVER WARRANTY UPDATE

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve a server warranty update with DIS Technologies. This update is for one year, for the cost of $1,900.00. DIS Technologies recommends that servers be on a 5 year server replacement schedule. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	21,744.16
2110	ROAD	25,373.74
2130	BRIDGE	186.50
2140	WEED	2,340.11
2170	AIRPORT	67,804.80
2230	AMBULANCE	307.92
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	6,602.59
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	11,955.08
2393	RECORDS PRESERVATION	73.29
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	351.98
2800	ALCOHOL REHABILITATION	5,335.00
2811	DUI PREVENTION	229.47
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	11.91
2850	911 EMERGENCY	2,888.43
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	192.99
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	383.31
2962	LOR FOUNDATION GRANT	257.47
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	106.25
2964	ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH	942.50
2965	INNOVATION BEH HEALTH	4,027.68
2971	WIC GRANT	73.61
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	118.16
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	100.75
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	112.66

2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	2,083.00
4012	GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMP	1791.64
7920	REFUND FUND	1,887.00

TOTAL CLAIMS	$157,282.00
TOTAL PAYROLL	$ 294,279.68
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS	$ 451,561.68

ADJOURNMENT

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

Pondera County, Montana.

Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kody L Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER SEAL PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA