REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
Held in September 2025

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on September 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2025.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Dalayne VanDyke

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioners had a phone meeting with Judith Basin County Commissioners about their concerns on the water injection wells, outside of Valier Montana.

RESOLUTION ON ADOPTING THE FINAL OPERATING BUDGET AND SETTING APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026
PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #5 – 2025/26
ADOPTING THE FINAL OPERATING BUDGET AND SETTING APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

WHEREAS, Section 7-6-4030, MCA, provides that the governing body shall adopt the final budget by resolution. The resolution must:
(a) Authorize appropriations to defray the expenses or liabilities for the fiscal year;
(b) Establish legal spending limits at the level of detail in the resolution; and
(c) Include any increase in property taxes, including an increase authorized under 15-10-420(1) and the amount by which property taxes will increase on homes valued at $100,000, $300,000 and $600,000.

WHEREAS, Section 7-6-4020 requires that a preliminary annual operating budget must be prepared for the local government; and
WHEREAS, Section 7-6-4021 requires that the governing body shall cause a notice of public hearing on the preliminary or amended budget to be published, and
WHEREAS, Section 7-6-4024, provides that the governing body must hold a public hearing in accordance with the notice given pursuant to 7-6-4021; and
WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on August 21, 2025 where residents of the County were allowed to express their concerns about the proposed budget; and
WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners has reviewed the proposed budget, received the estimated ending cash balances for all county funds, made changes to the budget as deemed necessary following the public hearing and from input by elected officials and department heads, and computed the estimated taxes, fees and assessments needed to fund the fiscal year 2026 budget.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County that:
The final budget after any amendments to the preliminary budget and after considering any public comment is adopted.
This resolution authorizes:
(a) Appropriations to defray the expenses or liabilities for the fiscal year.
(b) It sets the legal spending limits at the county fund level. Fund level detail is stated in the formal budget document and established in the County's accounting system.
(c) A decrease in property taxes due to (15-10-420 calculation), aggregate of countywide of $82.18, $246.54, and $370.58, respectively for a home valued at $100,000, $300,000 and $600,000 is included in this fiscal year budget.

(d) A decrease in property taxes due to (15-10-420 calculation), countywide permissive levies of $4.46, $13.38, and $20.67, respectively for a home valued at $100,000, $300,000 and $600,000 is included in this fiscal year budget.

(e) A decrease in property taxes due to (15-10-420 calculation), voted countywide levies of $15.44, $46.32, and $69.64, respectively for a home valued at $100,000, $300,000 and $600,000 is included in this fiscal year budget.

Adopted this 3rd day of September, 2025, as moved by Commissioner Drishinski, seconded by Commissioner Morren, and passed on a 2-0 vote of the board. Effective July 1, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Jim Morren
Jim Morren, Chairman

Absent
Thomas A Kuka, Member

Attest: /s/ Kody Farkell
Kody Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

/s/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

AUGUST COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED
Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the August 2025 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Reminder for the public to attend the EPA public hearing on September 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the Conrad High School Auditorium regarding the proposed injection of high strength industrial waste water from Calumet Refinery into oil wells near Valier, Montana.

MSU EXTENSION SERVICE AGREEMENT
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the FY2026 Extension Services Agreement between Montana State University Extension and Pondera County. The Agreement includes the amount budgeted for the Extension Office in Pondera County, including the County portion of the Agents' salaries which is set at 65% of the Clerk and Recorder's base salary for each Agent or a maximum of $39,000.00 for each Agent. Motion carried.

NEW JOB DESCRIPTION APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the new job description for Deputy Pondera County Attorney/Victim Advocate. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

CONTRACT FOR NEW PHONE SYSTEM WITH PREFERRED IT SYSTEMS
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve a contract with Preferred IT Systems for a new phone system for Pondera County Courthouse and Health Department. The total cost will be $13,371.25 for the set-up and new phones, and monthly cost will be $1,345.01. Motion carried.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public – Paul Anderberg

SET DATE, TIME, PLACE TO CANVASS NOVEMBER 4, 2025 ELECTION RESULTS

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to set November 12, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Office as the date, time, and place for the Canvass of the 2025 City of Conrad Municipal General Election. Motion carried.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION: CANCELLED DUE TO COMMISSIONERS ATTENDING MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONFERENCE IN GREAT FALLS

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

FUND

Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	81,163.93
2110	ROAD	18,672.51
2130	BRIDGE	111.38
2140	WEED	2,150.52
2170	AIRPORT	427.07
2230	AMBULANCE	164.75
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	6,760.99
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	15,490.82
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	359.89
2800	ALCOHOL REHABILITATION	6,099.36
2811	DUI PREVENTION	490.05
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	12.55
2840	NOXIOUS WEED GRANT	300.00
2850	911 EMERGENCY	1,149.97
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	825.00
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	255.87
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	396.82
2962	LOR FOUNDATION GRANT	2,708.03
2963	ORAL HEALTH GRANT	6,654.60
2964	ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH	359.24
2965	INNOVATION BEH HEALTH	17,546.76
2971	WIC GRANT	2,959.47
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	118.80
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	106.01
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	118.57
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	2,083.00
7920	REFUND FUND	227.50

TOTAL CLAIMS	$167,713.46
TOTAL PAYROLL	$358,462.52
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS	$526,175.98

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2025

Pondera County, Montana.

Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kody L Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER SEAL PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA