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

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on October 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2026.

OCTOBER 7, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public – McKenzie Graye

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Drishinski and Commissioner Morren attended a retirement party for Wendy Wedum, MSU Extension Agent.

Commissioner Kuka commented on the progress of the Roy Davis property in Valier, MT.

ACQUISITION PURCHASE PROJECT
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve on the FAA amounts of $159,904.00 for the Land Acquisition Purchase Project for the Pondera County Airport. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S SECURITIES REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2026
STIP $10,002,000.00 @ 4.0184453%

STOCKMAN BANK BALANCES $6,348,410.01

STOCKMAN BANK –Collateral Report

3133GDCV0	$ 852,195.03	FHLMC Pool	1.50% 05/01/2036
38384JWF7	$1,252,376.27	GNM24030 TD	4.50% 05/20/2051
3132D56U1	$1,352,401.23	FHLMC Pool #S	1.50% 01/01/2036
3142GS7M4	$ 822,867.95	FHLMC Pool #R	5.50% 10/01/2054
3140XJTX1	$ 319,643.74	FNMA POOL #F	1.50% 04/01/2036
31418D5C2	$ 107,943.36	FNMA POOL #	2.00% 10/01/2036
31418EUT5	$1,712,949.96	FNMA POOL #	5.00% 07/01/2038
3140NVW45	$2,000,000.00	FNMA POOL #B	4.99% 08/01/2029
3140M2CQ3	$1,124,147.24	FNMA POOL #B	2.00% 11/01/2051
31418D2X9	$ 662,067.46	FNMA POOL #	1.50% 07/01/2031
3140HRN82	$3,000,000.00	FNMA POOL#B	3.89% 11/01/2030
3136BRJF5	$ 198,745.74	FNM24009 NP	5.50% 06/25/2044
3132CXDK5	$ 331,138.51	FHLMC POOL	4.00% 11/01/2038
3130AF4W4	$ 865,000.00	FED HOME LN	4.10% 10/24/2033
3137HQET4	$1,844,989.08	FHL5640AC	4.25% 07/25/2050

RAYMOND JAMES

07371AYT4	$250,000.00	2.05%	Due 02/24/2027(CD)
3130AWC24	$250,000.00	4.00%	Due 06/09/2028
3134HCZG7	$250,000.00	4.10%	Due 03/17/2031
3136GCUC7	$250,000.00	4.00%	Due 03/17/2031
46659CPX2	$250,000.00	4.10%	Due 02/11/2031
3136GDN33	$250,000.00	5.00%	Due 08/13/2031

INDEPENDENCE BANK

CDARS 1030487326	02/04/27	4.11445%	$ 500,000.00
CDARS 1030598284	02/11/27	3.63338%	$ 250,000.00

CDARS 1029835442	10/14/27	2.59612%	$ 500,000.00
CDARS 1033876382	08/31/28	3.92228%	$1,000,000.00
CDARS 1033924379	09/07/28	3.92228%	$ 250,000.00
CDARS 1033924387	09/07/28	3.92228%	$ 500,000.00

BUCHANAN CAPITAL

DISCOVER BANK	254673U46	10/05/26	4.30%	$250,000.00
SCHWAB-SYNCHRONY	87165E3T2	11/03/26	5.10%	$250,000.00
SCHWAB-FIRST PREM	33610RUZ4	11/10/26	5.10%	$250,000.00
INTERNTNL BANK OF	45906AEC7	01/26/27	4.10%	$250,000.00
SAUK VALLEY BANK	804375EA7	01/29/27	4.15%	$250,000.00
MERRICK BANK	59013K3W4	01/31/28	4.25%	$250,000.00
MORGAN STANLEY B	61690DX29	03/20/28	4.15%	$250,000.00
BANK OF AMERICA	06051X5X6	04/10/28	3.95%	$250,000.00
FORBRIGHT BANK	34520LBK8	08/11/28	4.20%	$250,000.00
GOLDEN SACH BANK	38151PJV4	03/12/29	3.75%	$250,000.00
HADDON SAVINGS BANK	404730GD9	03/26/29	3.70%	$250,000.00
AMERANT BANK	02357QCT2	03/26/29	3.80%	$250,000.00
WELLS FARGO	949764US1	03/29/29	3.95%	$250,000.00
OPTUM BANK	68405VDC0	04/30/29	4.00%	$250,000.00
AMERICAN EXPRESS	02589AGA4	01/22/30	4.15%	$250,000.00
MORGAN STANLEY P	61776NLK7	02/12/30	4.25%	$250,000.00
EAGLEBANK	27002YHQ2	04/16/30	4.05%	$250,000.00
SALLIE MAE BANK	795451DX8	07/09/30	4.05%	$250,000.00
BMW BANK	05612LHW5	01/02/30	3.80%	$250,000.00
CFG BANK	12527CSA1	10/23/30	4.40%	$250,000.00

OCTOBER 14, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Sheriff Robert Skorupa, Undersheriff Bob Bender, Public – McKenzie Graye, Paul Anderberg

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Drishinski and Commissioner Morren participated in the Annual Cancer Foundation Benefit Chili Cook-Off.

Commissioner Kuka reported on the joint Pondera County Department Head meeting October 8, 2026.

RENEWAL OF INMATE EXCESS MEDICAL INSURANCE
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to renew the Inmate Excess Medical Insurance with Correctional Risk Services, Inc. at the rate of $1.12 per inmate per day for medical coverage, mental/nervous disorder treatment, substance abuse treatment, pregnancy, and AIDS/ARD/HIV treatment. Effective dates of coverage: November 1, 2026 to October 31, 2027. Motion carried.

REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the revised job description for Equipment Operator/Laborer for the Road & Bridge Department. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON DESIGNATING COUNTY OFFICE HOURS – HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
RESOLUTION #8 – 2026/27
DESIGNATING COUNTY OFFICE HOURS – HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

WHEREAS, Section 7-4-102, MCA, grants the Board of County Commissioners the power and authority to set office hours of the County offices (*by formal resolution after a public hearing and if consented to by any affected elected county officer*); and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Pondera County Commissioners to provide its employees availability for additional time off when a holiday fall on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; and

WHEREAS a public hearing on this resolution was conducted on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pondera County Commissioners office. Notice of the hearing was posted in the Pioneer Press on September 23 and 30, 2026, and no elected county officer nor any members of the public objected to the proposed office hours;

WHEREAS, employees will need to use compensatory time accrued and/or vacation hours to receive pay for the hours normally worked. Employees wishing to work during the affected hours and/or employees who do not have vacation and/or compensatory hours to apply to the benefit hours may work the hours.

WHEREAS, each County office will have an employee or elected official on call with phone numbers posted on all courthouse doors in the event a member of the public needs to conduct business on that day;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pondera County Board of Commissioners that the Pondera County offices will be closed to walk in traffic and open by appointment:

All day, Friday, November 27, 2026 (day after Thanksgiving Day);
12pm – 5pm, Thursday, December 24, 2026 (Christmas Eve Day)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that employees will need to use compensatory time accrued and/or vacation hours to receive pay for the hours normally worked. Employees wishing to work during the affected hours and/or employees who do not have vacation and/or compensatory hours to apply to the benefit hours may work.

Adopted this 14th day of October, 2026 as moved by Commissioner Drishinski, seconded by Commissioner Kuka, 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/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

/s/ Kody L Farkell
Kody L Farkell, Clerk and Recorder

OCTOBER 21, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public – McKenzie Graye

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Kuka reported on the Heart Butte Satellite Office, on October 15, 2026.

Commissioner Drishinski attended a meeting October 19, 2026 for concerned citizens of Conrad, Montana. The topic of interest was the Conrad surrey and how to get that service for the citizens of Conrad.

RESOLUTION ON AUTHORIZING PROSECUTORIAL ASSISTANCE IN DISTRICT AND JUSTICE COURT CASES

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #9 – 2026/27
AUTHORIZING PROSECUTORIAL ASSISTANCE
IN DISTRICT AND JUSTICE COURT CASES

WHEREAS, the Pondera County Attorney has requested Special Counsel assistance periodically throughout the fiscal year because of her periodic absence from the county for vacations or training; and

WHEREAS, the Ninth Judicial District Court and the Pondera County Justice Court caseload has significantly increased from previous years, and it is appropriate that special counsel be appointed to assist manage the caseload needs of the Pondera County Attorney's Office in both criminal and civil matters; and

WHEREAS, Mont. Code Ann. Section 7-4-2705 authorizes the board of county commissioners to employ Special Counsel to assist in the prosecution of any criminal case pending in the County or to represent the County in any civil action in which the county is a party; and

WHEREAS, the Pondera County Attorney has requested that Special Counsel be appointed to prosecute or represent the County in the Ninth Judicial District Court, as well as, the Pondera County Justice Court; and

WHEREAS, Joe Coble, Teton County Attorney, has agreed to act as a Special Counsel when required and has authorized Paul Neal and Jennifer Stutz, Deputy Teton County Attorneys, to also act as Special Counsel;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED: That, Joe Coble, Teton County Attorney, Paul Neal, and Jennifer Stutz, Deputy Teton County Attorneys, shall be appointed as Special Counsel for Pondera County for the purpose of assisting in the prosecution of any criminal case or representing the County in any civil action that may arise from October 15, 2026 through October 15, 2027, and that they can fulfill the functions and duties of the Pondera County Attorney's Office as set out in Mont. Code Ann. Section 7-4-2711 *et seq*.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: That under the terms of this agreement, no fee will be charged for attorney time provided by the special prosecutors, however, mileage shall be paid to each for any travel expenses incurred during the prosecution of any matters at the current rate of $0.725 per mile. Witness fees and expense, jury costs, and other normal costs associated with the prosecution will be the county's responsibility as with all other prosecutions.

Adopted this 21st day of October, 2026 as moved by Commissioner Drishinski, seconded by Commissioner Kuka, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the full board. Effective on passage and approval.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Jim Morren
Jim Morren, Chairman

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
Thomas A Kuka, Member

Attest: */s/ Kody L Farkell* */s/ Zane Drishinski*
Kody LFarkell, Clerk & Recorder Zane Drishinski, Member

OCTOBER 28, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public – McKenzie Graye

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Kuka attended the Many Rivers Whole Health meeting in Great Falls, MT on October 26, 2026.

Commissioner Kuka was in Heart Butte for the Satellite Voting Office on October 27, 2026.

REVISED JOB DESCRIPTIONS APPROVED
Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the revised job description for Pondera County Sanitarian. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

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

BIDS FOR CLERK OF COURT COPIER-
Two bids were received for the purchase of a copier for the Clerk of Court office.

1. Fisher's for $11,058.69 and contract of $30 per month
2. Preferred Office for $6,150 and contract of $18.75 per month

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to accept the bid from Preferred Office in the amount of $6,150. The purchase will be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

FUND

Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	131,733.87
2110	ROAD	31,811.67
2130	BRIDGE	122.24
2140	WEED	1,103.77
2170	AIRPORT	406.16
2230	AMBULANCE	189.24
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	5,127.06
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	23,207.41
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	364.63
2800	ALCOHOL REHABILITATION	4,573.07
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	11.47
2850	911 EMERGENCY	1,054.98
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	2,377.00
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	450.05
2919	STONEGARDEN GRANT	7,444.79
2952	COURTROOM SECURITY GRANT	640.00
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	243.98
2961	PERFORMANCE MTG GRANT	95.48
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	425.00

2965	INNOVATION BEH HEALTH	306.45
2971	WIC GRANT	72.76
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	11.47
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	514.03
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	567.95
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	2,083.00
4012	GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMP	1542.19
7920	REFUND FUND	20.60

TOTAL CLAIMS	$216,500.32
TOTAL PAYROLL	$332,781.93
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS	$549,282.25

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2026

Pondera County, Montana.

Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kody L. Farrell, Clerk & Recorder

COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER SEAL PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA