

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

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2026.

JULY 1, 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

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Drishinski attended spray day at Swift Dam June 24, 2026. He also attended the Energy Summit in Miles City, MT held by MACO.

MANY RIVERS WHOLE HEALTH DESIGNATED PROVIDER OF SERVICES FOR ALCOHOL REHABILITATION

Commissioner Kuka moved to designate the Many Rivers Whole Health as the County's provider of services for alcohol rehabilitation. The funding for these services are earmarked funds paid to the County by the State of Montana. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

AGREEMENT WITH MaPS INC FOR UPGRADE MAPPING SERVICES

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the agreement with MaPS Inc. for an upgrade to the existing contract. Using 8 devices, already owned by Pondera County. The total will be \$2,764.00 paid from the Sheriff's Department budget. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500-APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve technical support from MaPS Inc for the amount of \$2,380.00. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500-APPROVED

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the purchase of 2 barrels of oil for the Road/Bridge Department in the amount of \$2,000.00 from Napa Auto Parts. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500-APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the repairs on the Pondera County Extension vehicle in the amount of \$1,598.00 from Courtesy Ford. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S SECURITIES REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2026

STIP \$6,002,000.00 @ 3.9162206%

STOCKMAN BANK BALANCES \$13341241.24

STOCKMAN BANK –Collateral Report

3133GDCV0	\$ 881,892.42	FHLMC Pool	1.50%	05/01/2036
38384JWF7	\$1,313,358.64	GNM24030 TD	4.50%	05/20/2051
3132D56U1	\$1,406,569.35	FHLMC Pool #S	1.50%	01/01/2036
3142GS7M4	\$ 827,961.18	FHLMC Pool #R	5.50%	10/01/2054
3140XJTX1	\$ 333,449.24	FNMA POOL #F	1.50%	04/01/2036
31418D5C2	\$ 112,046.85	FNMA POOL #	2.00%	10/01/2036
31418EUT5	\$1,820,248.05	FNMA POOL #	5.00%	07/01/2038
3140NVW45	\$2,000,000.00	FNMA POOL #B4	9.99%	08/01/2029
3140M2CQ3	\$1,332,869.27	FNMA POOL #B2	0.00%	11/01/2051
31418D2X9	\$ 712,374.46	FNMA POOL #	1.50%	07/01/2031
3140HRN82	\$3,000,000.00	FNMA POOL #B	3.89%	11/01/2030
3136BRJF5	\$ 225,095.50	FNMA24009 NP	5.50%	06/25/2044
3132CXDK5	\$ 346,386.82	FHLMC POOL #S	4.00%	11/01/2038

July 2026

3130AF4W4	\$ 865,000.00	FED HOME LN	4.10%	10/24/2033
3137HQET4	\$1,908,860.72	FHL5640AC	4.25%	07/25/2050

RAYMOND JAMES

07371AYT4	\$250,000.00	2.05%	Due 02/24/2027(CD)
795451AN3	\$250,000.00	1.05%	Due 08/18/2026 (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

INDEPENDENCE BANK

CDARS 1030487326	02/04/27	4.11445%	\$ 500,000.00
CDARS 1030598284	02/11/27	3.63338%	\$ 250,000.00
CDARS 1029621582	09/03/26	3.39197%	\$ 250,000.00
CDARS 1029835442	10/14/27	2.59612%	\$ 500,000.00
CDARS 1031761944	08/27/26	4.29662%	\$1,000,000.00
CDARS 1027778727	09/10/26	4.08565%	\$ 500,000.00

BUCHANAN CAPITAL

DISCOVER BANK	254673U46	10/05/264.30%	\$250,000.00
FIRST FOUNDATION	32026UT22	07/14/264.65%	\$250,000.00
SCHWAB-SYNCHRONY	87165E3T2	11/03/265.10%	\$250,000.00
SCHWAB-FIRST PREM	33610RUZ4	11/10/265.10%	\$250,000.00
INTERNTNL BANK OF	45906AEC7	01/26/274.10%	\$250,000.00
SAUK VALLEY BANK	804375EA7	01/29/274.15%	\$250,000.00
MERRICK BANK	59013K3W4	01/31/284.25%	\$250,000.00
MORGAN STANLEY B	61690DX29	03/20/284.15%	\$250,000.00
FORBRIGHT BANK	34520LBK8	08/11/284.20%	\$250,000.00
GOLDEN SACH BANK	38151PJV4	03/12/293.75%	\$250,000.00
HADDON SAVINGS BANK	404730GD9	03/26/293.70%	\$250,000.00
AMERANT BANK	02357QCT2	03/26/293.80%	\$250,000.00
WELLS FARGO	949764US1	03/29/293.95%	\$250,000.00
OPTUM BANK	68405VDC0	04/30/294.00%	\$250,000.00
AMERICAN EXPRESS	02589AGA4	01/22/304.15%	\$250,000.00
MORGAN STANLEY P	61776NLK7	02/12/304.25%	\$250,000.00
EAGLEBANK	27002YHQ2	04/16/304.05%	\$250,000.00
SALLIE MAE BANK	795451DX8	07/09/304.05%	\$250,000.00
BMW BANK	05612LHW5	01/02/303.80%	\$250,000.00
BANK OF AMERICA	06051X5X6	04/10/283.95%	\$250,000.00

JULY 8, 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

MDT NOXIOUS WEED CONTRACT

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the MDT (Montana Department of Transportation) Noxious Weed Contract for state roads in Pondera County for \$19,000.00 from MDT. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

TASK ORDER - PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP) GRANT APPROVED

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the PHEP grant through the Montana Department of Health & Human Services. The grant provides funding of \$29,910.00 to reduce the burden of vaccine preventable disease, effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Motion carried.

TASK ORDER CONTRACT FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC) GRANT-APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the fiscal year 2027 Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) task order contract with the Montana Department of Health & Human Services in the amount of \$38,614.00 for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Motion carried.

DUI TASK FORCE PLAN APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the fiscal year 2026-27 DUI Task Force plan. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

CODE RED CONTRACT

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the 2026-27 contract in the amount of \$2,187.08 with OnSolve for the Code Red Contract. Motion carried.

COUNTY OFFICE SPACE RENTAL AGREEMENT

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve County Office Space Rental Agreement with Pioneer Counseling, located at the Pondera County Health Community Wellness Room. The term of agreement shall be for 6 months from July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Payment amount of \$100.00 per month. Motion carried.

JUNE COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the June 2026 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON LOAN TO FUNDS HAVING NEGATIVE CASH BALANCES AT FISCAL YEAR END

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
RESOLUTION #1 – 2026/27
LOAN TO FUNDS HAVING NEGATIVE CASH BALANCES
AT FISCAL YEAR END

WHEREAS, generally accepted standards for governmental accounting does not allow for negative cash balances in any fund, including reimbursable grant funds, at the close of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, four County funds,
Fund 2150, Predatory Animal (\$219.13)
Fund 2866, Northern Transit Interlocal (\$2,557.34)
Fund 2964, Alliance For Youth Grant (\$109.54)
Fund 2971, WIC Grant (\$4,493.59)

have negative cash balances as of June 30, 2026 due to the nature of the funds as reimbursable grant funds; and

WHEREAS, Pondera County General Fund has sufficient cash to loan the funds having negative cash balances on June 30, 2026 in order that the funds will not have a deficient cash balance; and

WHEREAS the funds shall repay the loan and interest at 0% per annum to the general fund from the revenue to be received, anticipated to be in July 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County that the Clerk and Recorder effect the loans to any and all funds having negative cash balances on June 30, 2026 from the county General funds and that the loans be repaid as stated above as soon as feasible.

Adopted this 8th day of July, 2026 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Drishinski, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective upon passage and approval.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Jim Morren
Jim Morren, Chairman

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
Thomas A Kuka, Member

July 2026

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

/s/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

JULY 15, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public- Paul Anderberg, McKenzie Graye

Public Comment-

Paul Anderberg commented on the City of Conrad storm sewer project on Blazen Road. Commissioners stated that Road/Bridge Superintendent Frosty DeBoo is aware of the situation and working with the City of Conrad.

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Drishinski attended the open house for From the Ground Up, Lisa Schmidt's new business in the old Amot building.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY KELLEN & KILEY JUDISCH

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for Kellen & Kiley Judisch on Elliot Road South for a new 30 foot approach. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

MONTANA NATURAL RESOURCES COALITION DUES

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the Montana Natural Resources Coalition dues of \$7,586.00, for year 2026-2027. Motion carried.

JULY 22, 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

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500-APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the repairs on the emergency generator on Belgian Hill for departments Road/Bridge, Sheriff, School, Fire and EMS in the amount of \$1,680.00 from Glacier Power Solutions. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

MEMBER DUES FOR MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the dues payment of \$11,080.00 to Montana Association of Counties for member dues, PILT assessment and NACo dues. Motion carried.

JULY 29, 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

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Kuka commented on the new CEO for Many Rivers Whole Health.

COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD APPOINTMENT

David Ratzburg submitted a letter of interest to the Commissioners for appointment to the County Airport Board. Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to appoint David Ratzburg to the County Airport Board. Motion carried.

FOURTH DRAWDOWN FOR LAND ACQUISITION PURCHASE PROJECT PAYMENT

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve drawdown #4 for Land Acquisition Purchase Project for the Pondera County Airport in the amount of \$56,600.00 for land purchase.

Pondera County required match of 10% cost of \$12,820.00. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

LEASE WITH LOGAN HEALTH CONRAD

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded the five year lease with Logan Health Conrad, hospital, longterm care and the clinic for the amount of \$503,928.00. Starting July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031. Motion carried.

REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR MSU EXTENSION

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the revised job descriptions for Extension Agent – Agriculture & 4-H Youth Development and Extension Agent – Family & Consumer Sciences & 4-H Youth Development. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

COUNTY ASSISTANCE TO CASA

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded the approval of donating \$10,000 to CASA for the fiscal year of 2026-2027. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON SETTING MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA

RESOLUTION #2 – 2026/27

SETTING MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES

WHEREAS Sections 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, and Section 7-4-2108, Montana Code Annotated, provide that persons who may be entitled to mileage, lodging and per diem reimbursement paid from public funds when using their own automobiles, incurring costs for lodging and per diem, in the performance of official duties are entitled to collect mileage for the distance actually traveled by automobile at a rate equal to the mileage allotment allowed by the Internal Revenue Service for the preceding calendar year; and

WHEREAS in recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made a special adjustment to the standard mileage reimbursement rates effective July 1st, changing the standard mileage reimbursement rate for the remaining 2026 year to 76 cents per mile, up 3.5 cents from the rate effective at the start of the year

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County that, effective July 1st mileage reimbursement rates will increase to 76 cents per mile, up 3.5 cents from the rate effective at the start of the year.

Adopted this 29th day of July, 2026 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Drishinski, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective on July 1st, 2026.

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
Kody L. Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

/s/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

FUND

Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	42,649.83
2110	ROAD	28,346.03
2130	BRIDGE	110.81

July 2026

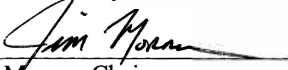
2140	WEED	3,423.73
2160	COUNTY FAIR	36.25
2170	AIRPORT	15,025.13
2190	COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE	189,031.62
2220	LIBRARY	4,500.00
2230	AMBULANCE	169.82
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	6,686.10
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	17,227.65
2390	DRUG FORFEITURE	430.26
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	360.99
2820	GAS APORTIONMENT TAX	2,139.71
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	11.65
2840	NOXIOUS WEED GRANT	231.25
2850	911 EMERGENCY	2,633.24
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	418.61
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	2,224.16
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	278.83
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	425.00
2965	INNOVATION BEH HEALTH	213.13
2971	WIC GRANT	73.09
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	11.65
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	241.27
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	110.19
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	2,083.00
4012	GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMP	759.26
7920	REFUND FUND	179.91

TOTAL CLAIMS	\$320,032.17
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$376,230.70
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS	\$696,262.87

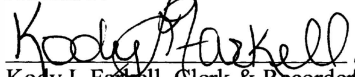
ADJOURNMENT

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

Pondera County, Montana.


Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kody L. Farkell, Clerk & Recorder



July 2026