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

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2026.

MAY 6, 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, City Police Chief Andy Lund

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Drishinski commented on the approval from the EPA for a Class 5 water permit on the injection wells by Valier, MT.

Commissioner Kuka visited with Peggy Beltrone from Citizens Climate Lobby who are requesting support for building electric generation and transmission capacities throughout Montana.

Commissioner Morren attended a Billings Clinic/Logan Health conference in Billings, MT.

SURPLUS PROPERTY PROGRAM AGREEMENT
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded the approval of a Surplus Property Program Agreement with Montana Department of Administration. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the purchase of a new server for the Sheriff Department from Lenovo in the amount of $20,031.50. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

INVOICE WITH MaPS FOR MAPPING SERVICES
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the invoice from Mapping and Planning Specialists, Inc. (MaPS, Inc.) for E911 and GPS/GIS mapping services at a cost of $4,195.00. Motion carried. The funding for this project is a grant awarded to Pondera County from Montana Land Information Act.

MAY 13, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Kuka and Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch went to Heart Butte for the Satellite Election Office, May 12, 2026.

TASK ORDER AMENDMENT CONTRACT FOR IMMUNIZATION SERVICES GRANT
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the amended Immunization Services task order contract with Montana Department of Health & Human Services in the amount of $9,292.24 for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

MAY 20, 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

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Drishinski spoke on KSEN radio about the county owned hospital levy for the June 2nd Federal Primary Election.

Commissioner Kuka commented on the Valier Airport being closed 6 hours on May 20, 2026 due to utilities being worked on.

APRIL COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED

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

RESOLUTION ON AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO PONDERA COUNTY BUDGET

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #23 – 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 amended 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 amended as follows:

Revenue	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
1000-341040	C&R – Idoc Market	$ 2,700	$3,200
1000-341041	C&R fees	$ 30,000	$42,000
1000-344097	50% shar-JP court	$ 36,000	$45,000
2170-343062	Aviation Fuel	$ 5,000	$7,500
2170-343063	Lease on Ground Area	$ 463	$2,200
2170-362080	Crop Revenue	$ 13,158	$13,370
2290-341012	Extension Serv – Ag Acct	$ 2,000	$2,500
2393-341043	Preservation Fund	$ 4,000	$7,000
2859-341041	C&R Fees	$ 2,000	$3,000
2860-341071	Review Fees	$ 8,000	$15,000
2978-331140	Grant Revenue	$ 17,298	$32,252
4013-371010	Investment Earnings	$ 28,000	$35,000
4013-383013	Transfer to Capital Funds	$495,000	$575,000

Expenditure	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
1000-448-440190-370	Travel	$ 2,000	$3,700
2978-403-440191-345	Telephone charges	$0	$1,500
2978-403-440191-387	Training	$0	$ 200
2978-403-440191-210	Supplies	$25,190	$38,444

Adopted this 20th day of May, 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/ Kody L Farkell
Kody L Farkell, Clerk and Recorder

/s/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

RESOLUTION ON ESTABLISHING SATELLITE ELECTION OFFICE ON BLACKFEET RESERVATION IN HEART BUTTE FOR THE JUNE 2,2026 FEDERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #24 - 2025/26
ESTABLISHING SATELLITE ELECTION OFFICE ON BLACKFEET RESERVATION IN HEART BUTTE FOR THE JUNE 2, 2026 FEDERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

WHEREAS, the Montana Secretary of State has issued Election Directive #01-2015 dated October 15, 2015, to all Counties in Montana with an American Indian reservation that includes voting-eligible residents to open satellite election offices on those reservations, if certain conditions are met;

WHEREAS, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council has requested a Satellite Election Office on the Blackfeet Reservation in Heart Butte, Pondera County, Montana, and has agreed to provide an appropriate location for said office which meets the criteria for an appropriate office as detailed in the Election Directive #01-2015; and

WHEREAS, based on census data and current voter registration numbers for the Heart Butte Precinct, Pondera County officials agree to establish a Satellite Election Office on the Blackfeet Reservation in Heart Butte for the June 2, 2026 Federal Primary Election as follows:

Tuesday, May 12, 2026	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that based on census data and current voter registration numbers for the Heart Butte Precinct, Pondera County officials agree to establish a Satellite Election Office on the Blackfeet Reservation in Heart Butte for the June 2, 2026 Federal Primary Election as follows:

Tuesday, May 12, 2026	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Satellite Election Office on the Blackfeet Reservation will be in place for the Federal Primary Election, the days and hours will be evaluated after the June 2, 2026 Federal Primary Election and adapted, if necessary, prior to setting days and hours for future elections.

Adopted this 20th day of May, 2026 as moved by Commissioner Drishinski, seconded by Commissioner Kuka, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective May 12, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Jim Morren
Jim Morren, Chairman

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
Thomas A Kuka, Member

/s/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

ATTEST:

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

REGULAR MEETING JUNE 3, 2026 CANCELLED
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to cancel the regular meeting of the Commissioners scheduled for June 3, 2026. Commissioners will be attending the MACO District Conference in Liberty County. Motion carried.

MAY 27, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Undersheriff Robert Bender

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Kuka commented on the future plans for the Conrad Airport.

Commissioner Drishinski was not present at the meeting due to being in Heart Butte for the satellite election office.

TASK ORDER CONTRACT FOR STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE GRANT-APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the fiscal year 2026 Strengthening Public Health Workforce task order contract with the Montana Department of Health & Human Services in the amount of $40,000 for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Motion carried.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY GLENN & STACEY STEELE
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for Glenn & Stacey Steele on Pike Road to widen the approach. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

COURTROOM SECURITY DOORS
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the installation of the courtroom security doors in the Pondera County Courthouse by B/B Home Repair. Estimated cost for the installation of the doors is $4,700.00 and $7,790.00 for the doors for a total of $12,490.00. Pondera County received a grant from The Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) for $10,000.00. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of 6 tires for the road graders from Pomps in Great Falls for the Road/Bridge Department in the amount of $9,504.24. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of 10 tires for the pull behind compactor/roller from Walk & Roll in Havre for the Road/Bridge Department in the amount of $3,743.00. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

FUND

Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	47,496.98
2110	ROAD	44,715.09
2130	BRIDGE	102.02
2140	WEED	516.97
2160	COUNTY FAIR	500.00
2170	AIRPORT	770.52
2230	AMBULANCE	193.35
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	1,970.84
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	16,893.09
2390	DRUG FORFEITURE	248.05
2393	RECORDS PRESERVATION	2,380.00
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	356.11
2811	DUI PREVENTION	551.06
2820	GAS APORTIONMENT TAX	2,043.53
2821	ENHANCED GAS TAX (BARSAR)	18,582.06

2830	JUNK VEHICLE	11.63
2850	911 EMERGENCY	4,791.01
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	347.25
2919	STONEGARDEN GRANT	313.45
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	348.19
2961	PERFORMANCE MTG GRANT	56.97
2962	LOR FOUNDATION GRANT	14.99
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	3,623.57
2964	ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH	500.00
2965	INNOVATION BEH HEALTH	13,696.45
2971	WIC GRANT	635.65
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	117.88
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	173.36
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	109.99
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	2,083.00
4009	PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL IMP	28,236.08
4013	ROAD/BRIDGE EQUIP PURCHASE	5,898.32
7920	REFUND FUND	39.13

TOTAL CLAIMS	$198,316.59
TOTAL PAYROLL	$350,964.58
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS	$549,281.17

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on May 29, 2026

Pondera County, Montana.

Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kody L Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER SEAL PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA