

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
Held in September, 2015**

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on September 2, 9, 16, and 30, 2015. Unless indicated, all Commissioners were present.

SCHOOL BUDGETS APPROVED – September 2, 2015

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the budgets for the Conrad Elementary, Conrad High School, Valier Elementary, Valier High School, Dupuyer Elementary, and Miami Elementary school districts in Pondera County, as prepared by each School District's clerk. Commissioner Hoppes seconded. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer. Commissioner Broesder was absent on County business.

RESOLUTION APPROVING BUDGET FOR PONDERA COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015/16 – ADOPTED – September 1, 2015

**PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
RESOLUTION #8 – 2015/16
APPROVING FINAL BUDGET FOR PONDERA COUNTY
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015/16**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 7-6-4021, 7-6-4024 and 7-6-4030, MCA, the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County, Montana, has held a public hearing and passed resolutions as applicable on the proposed budget of Pondera County for fiscal year 2015/16 as required by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 7-6-4034 through 7-6-4036, MCA, provide for the fixing of various tax levies to raise funds sufficient to meet said expenditures authorized in the budget; and

WHEREAS, amendments to the final budget may be made throughout the fiscal year as provided in 7-6-4031; and

WHEREAS the Department of Revenue has provided the County with the certified value of a mill in each taxing jurisdiction in the County, as \$15,599 countywide and \$12,355 rural; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the final county budget as set out below be, and the same is, hereby adopted as the final budget for fiscal year 2015/16 and that warrants be issued in accordance with laws appertaining thereto.

COUNTYWIDE

Assessed Valuation: 726,397,556
Tax Valuation: 15,599,087
1 Mill Yields: 15,599

FUND NO.	FUND NAME	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	MILL LEVY	VOTED MILL LEVY
1000	GENERAL	1,776,482	59.02	
2130	BRIDGE	370,500	12.50	
2140	WEED	139,323	4.65	
2160	COUNTY FAIR	4,740	.25	
2190	COMP INSURANCE	222,690	7.25	
2230	AMBULANCE	31,800	1.10	
2235	COUNTY HOSPITAL	939,831	11.50	
2280	SENIOR CITIZENS	30,000	1.60	
2290	EXTENSION	120,320	4.90	
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY	1,191,001	27.50	

2370	RETIREMENT	228,010	12.75	
2371	GROUP HEALTH	321,000	10.57	
TOTALS		5,375,697	153.59	

COUNTYWIDE VOTED LEVIES

Assessed Valuation: 726,397,556
 Tax Valuation: 15,599,087
 1 Mill Yields: 15,599

FUND NO.	FUND NAME	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	MILL LEVY	VOTED MILL LEVY
2220	COUNTY LIBRARIES (VOTED LEVY)	261,206		16.75
2372	PERMISSIVE MEDICAL	86,418		5.53
4016	HOSPITAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	175,053		11.22
7380	PORT AUTHORITY	69,957		4.00
TOTALS		592,634		37.50

BRADY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT DEBT SERVICE				
Assessed Valuation:				
1 Mill Yields: 103.326 149.468				
7360	BRADY WATER DEBT SERVICE	15,144	149.468	

RURAL

Assessed Valuation: 536,245,534
 Tax Valuation: 12,355,882
 1 Mill Yields: 12,355

FUND NO.	FUND NAME	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	MILL LEVY	VOTED MILL LEVY
2110	ROAD	1,038,444	42.00	
7200	RURAL FIRE (REGULAR LEVY)	140,371	6.70	
7200	RURAL FIRE (VOTED LEVY)	20,894		1.69
TOTAL		1,199,709	48.70	1.69

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

CEMETERY DISTRICT #1 (VALIER)				
Assessed Valuation: 220,913,078				
Tax Valuation: 4,592,947				
1 Mill Yields: 4,592				
7203	CEMETERY DISTRICT #1	16,200	4.00	

CEMETERY DISTRICT #2 (CONRAD)				
Assessed Valuation: 505,484,478				
Tax Valuation: 11,006,140				
1 Mill Yields: 11,006				
7201	CEMETERY DISTRICT #2	123,180	7.36	

CONSERVATION DISTRICT				
Assessed Valuation:				
Tax Valuation: 7,727,277				
1 Mill Yields: 7,727				
7206	SOIL CONSERVATION	111,666	2.76	

NON-LEVIED FUNDS

FUND NO.	FUND NAME	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES
2150	PREDATORY ANIMAL	13,345
2170	COUNTY AIRPORTS	33,367
2260	EMERGENCY DISASTER	5,415
2262	EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL	1,529
2390	DRUG FORFEITURE	19,520

2393	RECORDS PRESERVATION	39,024
2401	BRADY LIGHTS	6,960
2800	ALCOHOL REHABILITATION	37,201
2811	DUI PREVENTION	14,790
2820	GAS APPORTIONMENT TAX	205,052
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	10,954
2840	NOXIOUS WEED	56,362
2850	911 EMERGENCY	194,896
2859	COUNTY LAND INFORMATION	14,558
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	33,000
2865	OIL & GAS P&A GRANT (DNRC)	439
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	34,962
2894	STATE ALLOCATED FED ROYALTY	32,240
2897	OIL & GAS ACCELERATED	9,001
2900	PILT	367,409
2902	FOREST RESERVE, TITLE III	44,041
2917	VICTIM & WITNESS ADV	1,705
2955	BUCKLE UP MONTANA	16,282
2958	DES GRANTS	102,579
2961	PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT GRANT	13,673
2962	HEALTHY CHILD	2,806
2968	BREAST/CERVICAL HEALTH	11,713
2971	WOMEN/INFANTS/CHILD	30,563
2973	MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH	9,225
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION	9,244
2978	TOBACCO USE PREV GRANT	28,900
2979	NAPA GRANT	21,887
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUNDATON GRANT	13,759
3010	HOSPITAL DEBT SERVICE	152,888
4009	PUBLIC SAFETY CAP IMP	244,663
4010	JUNK VEH CAP IMP	20,676
4011	AMBULANCE CAP IMP	81,313
4012	GEN FUND CAP IMP	254,064
4013	ROAD/BRIDGE CAP IMP	325,311
4014	WEED DISTRICT CAP IMP	48,957
7208	RURAL FIRE DISTRICT CAP IMP	161,265
8010	CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE	0
	TOTAL	2,725,538

LEVIED FUNDS	\$ 7,434,230
NON-LEVIED FUNDS	<u>2,725,538</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$10,159,768

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the final budget may be amended throughout the fiscal year as provided in 7-6-4031, MCA.

Adopted this 2nd day of September, 2015 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Hoppes, and passed on a 2-0 vote of the board. Effective July 1, 2015.

PONDERA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

 Absent
Sandra J Broesder, Chairman

 /s/ Janice Hoppes
Janice Hoppes, Member

ATTEST:

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

 /s/ Thomas A Kuka
Thomas A Kuka, Member

COORDINATION WITH BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD AND PONDERA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR MONTANA CARE VAN SERVICE APPROVED –

September 2, 2015

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana Care Van is a community partnership and outreach program that provides vaccines to Montanans, with an emphasis on underserved populations. Care Van teams up with community health officials to administer vaccines at no cost, or low cost, to patients. The program brings services to Montana's rural and underserved areas, as well as centralized locations in populated areas.

While Care Van is a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) program, it is not intended to drive business toward insurance. It is an extension of BCBSMT's commitment to give back to the Montana communities.

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Hoppes seconded to allow the Pondera County Health Department to bring in Care Van for an approximate 3 days in 2015. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer. Commissioner Broesder was absent on County business.

RATIFY ACTIONS OF COMMISSIONERS IN REGARDS TO ACTIONS TAKEN ON FIRE EMERGENCY –

September 2, 2015

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Hoppes seconded to ratify actions taken since the last Commissioner meeting due to the declared emergency (fire). Actions were taken August 28-30, 2015. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer. Commissioner Broesder was absent on County business.

APPROVED LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT FOR NON-AUDIT ENGAGEMENT SERVICES –

September 2, 2015

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Hoppes seconded to approved the Letter of Engagement received from Denning, Downey, and Associates for Non-Audit engagement services for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Services include GASB #31 (external investment pool), GASB #34 (converting financial statements to full accrual, preparation of data for federal audit, and other fiscal year end services. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer. Commissioner Broesder was absent on County business.

PRESENTATION OF PONDERA REGIONAL PORT AUTHORITY BUDGET –

September 3, 2015

Cheryl Curry and Cyndi Johnson presented the 2015/16 budget for Pondera Regional Port Authority. Expenses are budgeted lower this year due to the expected lower cost of a NSP house planned in Valier vs the NSP house done in Conrad last year. Commissioner Hoppes pointed out that they will receive more money through the tax levy since the value of a mill is higher and the taxpayers approved 4 mills per year. Also, the County has in its budget the additional money earmarked for economic development previously provided to Port Authority, however, in view of their increased revenue from the mill levy, the actual amount the Commissioners will consider to loan or transfer to the Port Authority will be determined at a later date.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer. Commissioner Broesder was absent on County business.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE SET FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS REGARDING DUST CONTROL ON COUNTY ROADS –

September 2, 2015

Commissioner have received several complaints about dust of county roads, particularly on Midway Road past United Grain. County Commissioners would like to hold public meetings regarding problems and potential solutions for dust control throughout the county. Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Hoppes seconded to set Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Valier Civic Center and Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Pondera County Courtroom as the date time and place for a public meetings. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer. Commissioner Broesder was absent on County business.

FUNDING REQUEST OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE APPROVED – September 9, 2015

District Court Judge Robert G. Olson met with Commissioners Kuka and Hoppes on September 8, 2015 to request one-time funding of \$5,000 for the 9th Judicial District Drug Court. The State of Montana reduced the funding for the program under which defendants sentenced for drug and/or alcohol abuse receive treatment and counseling services. The Judge and Court Administrator have reduced the expenses as much as possible but additional funding is still needed to keep the Court viable for this fiscal year.

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the request. Commissioner Hoppes seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO LIFT BAN ON OPEN BURNING-ADOPTED – September 9, 2015

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #9 - 2015/16
LIFTING BAN ON OPEN BURNING

WHEREAS, Pondera County routinely issues burning permits for the open burning of yard debris, stubble, grass, weeds and other miscellaneous wood/lumber products which can result in large planned fires; and

WHEREAS Pondera County issued a ban on all open burning effective July 1, 2015 due to extremely dry weather conditions; and

WHEREAS these conditions have lessened due to increased moisture and cooler temperatures in Pondera County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County that:

1. All open burning permits may be issued;
2. Open burning is permitted in the county;
3. Campfires are allowed.

Adopted this 9th day of September, 2015, as moved by Commissioner Hoppes, seconded by Commissioner Kuka, and passed on a full vote of the board. Effective on passage and approval.

PONDERA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Sandra J Broesder
Sandra J Broesder, Chairman

/s/ Janice Hoppes
Janice Hoppes, Member

ATTEST:

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

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
Thomas A Kuka, Member

EMERGENCY FACILITIES & LAND USE AGREEMENT APPROVED - September 16, 2015

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve an Emergency Facilities & Land Use Agreement with the Lewis & Clark Forest Service. The agreement authorized payment of \$100 per day for September 2-8 for the use of the Swift Dam Campground. Crews fighting the Swift Dam fire used the campground as their base camp. Commissioner Hoppes seconded. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer.

APPROVAL FOR A TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT JOB DESCRIPTION — September 16, 2015

Commissioner Hoppes moved to approve the job description for a temporary administrative specialist in the Health Department. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL GRANT AGREEMENT APPROVED – September 16, 2015

Commissioner Hoppes moved to approve the grant agreement between the Bureau of Land Management. The County will receive \$11,465 eradication of noxious weeds on Public Lands in Pondera County. Commissioner Hoppes seconded. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer.

SCHOOL BUDGETS APPROVED – September 16, 2015

Commissioner Hoppes moved to approve the budgets for the Heart Butte and Dutton-Brady school districts in Pondera County, as prepared by each School District's clerk. Commissioner Hoppes seconded. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer.

CERTIFIED MILLS APPROVED – September 16, 2015

Commissioner Hoppes moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the Certified Mills for tax year 2015. Motion carried.

Also in attendance was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO PONDERA COUNTY BUDGET – September 16, 2015

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #10 - 2015/16
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 errors 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	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
2140-343362	Bureau of Land Mgt	\$0	\$11,465
Expenditure	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
2140-311-431101-220	Operating Supplies	\$4,000	\$5,376
2140-311-431101-221	Weed Control Chemicals	\$18,000	\$24,420
2140-311-431101-231	Gas, Fuel, Oil, etc	\$7,000	\$9,522
2140-311-431101-233	Machinery & Equip Parts	\$2,000	\$2,688
2140-311-431101-360	Maint & Repair Services	\$1,100	\$1,559
Revenue	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
7203-362015	Dep CD into Fund 7203	\$0	\$4,686
Expenditure	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
7203-431-430900-110	Salaries/Wages	\$14,000	\$17,000
7203-431-430900-140	Payroll Benefits	\$1,500	\$2,636
7203-431-430900-340	Utility Services	\$300	\$525
7203-431-430900-365	Grounds Maintenance	\$300	\$525
7203-431-430900-543	Water Shares	\$100	\$200

Adopted this 16th day of September, 2015 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Hoppes, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective on passage and approval.

PONDERA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Sandra J Broesder
Sandra J Broesder, Chairman

/s/ Janice Hoppes
Janice Hoppes, Member

ATTEST:

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

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
Thomas A Kuka, Member

DATE, TIME AND PLACE SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED OFFICE CLOSINGS ON THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS EVE – September 16, 2015

Commissioner Hoppes moved to set Wednesday, October 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioners office as the date, time and place for a public hearing on the proposal to close the county offices on the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

Also attending was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent-Observer.

RENEWAL OF INMATE EXCESS MEDICAL INSURANCE – September 30, 2015

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Hoppes seconded to renew the Inmate Excess Medical Insurance with Correctional Risk Services, Inc. at the rate of \$1.02 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, 2015 to October 31, 2016. Motion carried.

Also attending was Buck Traxler, Editor of The Independent Observer.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR PARALEGAL APPROVED – September 30, 2015

Commissioner Hoppes moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the job description for a Paralegal in the County Attorney’s office. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT – September 30, 2015

<i>FUND</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
GENERAL	\$ 37,153.15
ROAD	6,383.85
BRIDGE	4,967.32
WEED	1,573.28
AIRPORT	432.37
AMBULANCE	112.68
COUNTY HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME	27,540.91
EXTENSION SERVICE	5,423.06
PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	13,769.30
HEALTH INSURANCE - EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION	824.86
RECORDS PRESERVATION	2,222.00
BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	338.93
911 EMERGENCY	3,592.36
ALCOHOL REHABILITATION	28,521.00
LAND USE PLANNING	549.00
NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	171.50
STATE ALLOCATED FEDERAL MINERAL	2,000.00
BUCKLE UP MT	1,839.34
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT	6,718.99
PERFORMANCE MGT GRANT	101.49
HEALTHY CHILD (LEAD POISONING) GRANT	1,070.05
BREAST & CERVICAL SCREENING	70.00
WIC GRANT	483.26

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH		1,330.69
IMMUNIZATION ACTION PROGRAM		839.95
TOBACCO USE PREVENTION GRANT		147.46
NAPA GRANT		30.48
ROAD/BRIDGE EQUIP PURCHASE		7,000.00
REFUND FUND		2,612.46
TOTAL CLAIMS	\$	157819.74
TOTAL PAYROLL		<u>247,638.46</u>
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS		<u><u>405,458.20</u></u>

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2015. Pondera County, Montana.

Sandra J Broesder, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kody Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

ROAD ISSUES LISTENING MEETINGS - VALIER – September 29, 2015

A listening session regarding road issues was held at the Valier Civic Center on September 29th. Attending were the Commissioner Broesder, Hoppes and Kuka, John Stokes, County Road Department Supervisor, Pam McFarland, Tom McFarland, Monte Fauque and Tyler Krause, United Grain Corporation, and Dawn Fauque.

Topics discussed centered on controlling dust, particularly on the roads leading to and from the United Grain facility (Conrad), speed limits and/or dust abatement treatment on county roads and the bridge on Frances Heights Road. Though the Valier area does not suffer the dust on the roads leading to and from United Grain, there are dust complaints in the Valier area as well. Discussed was whether or not a speed limit would help; lowering the speed limit on any county roads results in compliance and enforcement issues and even slow moving vehicles kick up lots of dust, particularly in dry years such as we have had. Magnesium Chloride could be applied to the roads but it is expensive and criteria would have to be established as to what roads have excessive traffic to warrant the cost. Mag Chloride would have to be applied annually with the potential to skip a year now and then if the road quality warranted it. A suggestion to change the stop sign to a yield sign on Manta Road was discussed and follow up will be made.

The bridge on Frances Heights road is scheduled for replacement in 2017 by the Montana Department of Transportation. The County and State would like to replace the bridge with a culvert but the state will have final say on whether or not a culvert can be used on this road.