

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA  
Held in October 2024**

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2024.

**OCTOBER 2, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, DES Coordinator Morgan Johnson, Public – Paul Anderberg

CONTRACT WITH VOICE PRODUCTS SERVICE LLC

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded the contract with Voice Products Service LLC for 911 services from 12/1/2024 to 11/30/2025 for the amount of \$16,856.00. Motion carried.

TRAINING FOR DISPATCHERS AND DES COORDINATOR

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded the training for Dispatchers and DES Coordinator with Third Signal LLC. In the amount of \$14,500.00 paid from the 911 fund. Motion carried.

NEIGHBOR WORKS, HB 819

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded the approval of working with Neighbor Works, HB 819 providing money for each Montana county to help with home purchases. No work will be done by county employees. Motion carried.

**OCTOBER 9, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Dalayne VanDyke, DES Coordinator Morgan Johnson, Public – Paul Anderberg

RESOLUTION ON PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA ADOPTING THE 2024-2029  
CENTRAL MONTANA REGION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND ANNEX

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA

RESOLUTION #11 – 2024/25

A RESOLUTION OF PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA ADOPTING THE 2024-  
2029 CENTRAL MONTANA REGION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND ANNEX

M: PONDERA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within Pondera County;

WHEREAS, the Pondera County has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the 2024-2029 Central Montana Region Hazard Mitigation Plan and Annex M: Pondera County (hereinafter “Hazard Mitigation Plan”) in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended;

WHEREAS, the Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in Pondera County from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Board of County Commissioners demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. §§ 7-5-121 & 4201, the Board of County Commissioners hereby adopts the Hazard Mitigation Plan. While content related to (local government) may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require (local government) to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024, as moved by Commissioner Drishinski, seconded by Commissioner Kuka, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective upon 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 Farkell  
Kody Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

/s/ Zane Drishinski  
Zane Drishinski, Member

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

Commissioner Kuka moved to set Wednesday, October 23, 2024 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 early on Christmas Eve day. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500-APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of 2 chairs for the dispatcher's office in the amount of \$4,782.00. The funds for this purchase will come out of the 911 funds. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

**OCTOBER 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Dalayne VanDyke, DES Coordinator Morgan Johnson, Public – Paul Anderberg, McKenzie Graye

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Drishinski and VanDyke went to Heart Butte October 15, 2024 for the Satellite Office for the General Election.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG) COUNTY CONTRIBUTION COMMITMENT FOR DES

Commissioner Kuka moved to sign a letter of commitment for \$27,500.00 (50% match) for the FY2024-25 EMPG program period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF PRÓPERTY SALE

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded the notice of a property sale at Arrow Addition, Block 4, Lots 70-72 in the town of Conrad, Montana, due to the amount of \$27,918.00 of delinquent taxes. The sale is advertised for November 19, 2024 at 10:00 am in the Commissioners office at the Pondera County Courthouse. Motion carried.

**OCTOBER 23, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Jim Morren, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Dalayne VanDyke

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY KENNETH WHEELER JR

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for Kenneth Wheeler on Blazen Road for a water line. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

AGREEMENT WITH 'HERE' FOR MAPPING SERVICES

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the Letter of Agreement between the County and HERE for E911 and GPS/GIS one time snap shot of county maps. Motion carried.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STAHLY ENGINEERING**

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded the approved professional services agreement with Stahly Engineering & Associates for five (5) years, from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2029. Motion carried.

**EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500 APPROVED**

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the purchase of a hot water pressure washer from Normont Equipment for the Road and Bridge Department for the amount of \$5,422.00, plus shipping and handling. Funds will be used from the Capital Improvement fund. Motion carried.

**SEPTEMBER COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED**

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the September 2024 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

**OCTOBER 23, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING CLOSING COUNTY OFFICES ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 2024 AND NOON ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 2024**

Commissioner Morren called the hearing to order at 10:15 a.m. Those in attendance were Commissioners Kuka, and Morren; Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell and Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Dalayne VanDyke. The purpose of the hearing was to gather public input regarding the closure of county offices on the day after Thanksgiving Day, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and noon on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The hearing was advertised in the Independent Observer and The Valerian on October 9 and 16, 2024.

There were no comments from the public.

The Commissioners discussed prior history of closure and that it was not an additional holiday for employees. Employees would have to use vacation time or compensatory time to have the day off.

The hearing adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

**OCTOBER 30, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, McKenzie Graye

**DUST ABATEMENT AGREEMENT**

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Morren seconded on a dust abatement agreement with Kenneth Wheeler Jr. for the corner of Beaverhead and Rock City Roads. Motion carried.

**PAY REQUEST FOR CONRAD AIRPORT ROAD**

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Morren seconded the pay request for Pondera County's portion for the new airport road rebuild from Robert Peccia and Associates for \$31,010.00. Pondera County is responsible for 10% of the payment and the rest will come from an FAA grant. Motion carried.

**PAY REQUEST FOR LAND PURCHASE**

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Morren seconded the pay request for the airport land acquisition of 1.37 acres from Ellis Trust for the amount of \$11,600.00. Pondera County will be responsible for 10%, for a total of \$1,160.00. Motion carried.

**NINTH DRAWDOWN FOR FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION PROJECT PAYMENT**

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve drawdown #9 for the Federal Aviation Administration Project for the Pondera County Airport in the amount of \$112,412.00. Pondera County required match of 10% cost of \$11,241.20. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIM FOR INDIGENT BURIAL APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve payment of \$750 for a burial of indigent resident of the county. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON DESIGNATING COUNTY OFFICE HOURS – HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA  
RESOLUTION #12 – 2024/25

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 additional time off when holidays fall on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; and

WHEREAS a public hearing on this resolution was conducted on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pondera County Commissioners office. Notice of the hearing was posted in the Independent Observer and The Valerian on October 9 and 16, 2024, 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 29, 2024 (day after Thanksgiving Day);  
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Tuesday, December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve)

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 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024 as moved by Commissioner Drishinski, seconded by Commissioner Morren, and passed on a 2-0 vote of the board; Effective on passage and approval.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Jim Morren  
Jim Morren, Chair

Absent  
Thomas A Kuka, Member

ATTEST:

/s/ Zane Drishinski  
Zane Drishinski, Member

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

ACCEPTED RESIGNATION FOR EVERETT BREIDING ON CONRAD CEMETERY BOARD

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the resignation of Everett Breiding from the Conrad Cemetery Board. Commissioners also appoint David Egan for the replacement of Everett Breiding on the Cemetery Board. Motion carried.

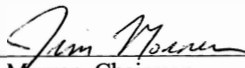
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

<u>FUND</u>		
Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	56,584.72
2110	ROAD	35,542.26
2130	BRIDGE	194.32
2131	BRIDGE RAPID REPAIR	719.58
2170	AIRPORT	525.12
2230	AMBULANCE	173.80
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	3,352.63
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	11,976.11
2390	DRUG FORFEITURE	529.00
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	308.80
2820	GAS APORIONMENT TAX	56,284.00
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	612.55
2850	911 EMERGENCY	22,321.52
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	800.00
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	15,199.33
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	416.48
2964	ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH	1,339.61
2971	WIC GRANT	98.37
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	118.80
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	508.78
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	799.01
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	4,784.07
4009	PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL IMP	42,098.72
4012	GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMP	7509.10
7920	REFUND FUND	306.72
TOTAL CLAIMS		263,103.40
TOTAL PAYROLL		\$ 353,884.87
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS		\$ 616,988.27

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on October 31, 2024

Pondera County, Montana.

  
 Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:  
  
 Kody L. Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

