

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
Held in February 2025**

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2025.

FEBRUARY 5, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

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

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CONTRACT APPROVED

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the County Superintendent of Schools Agreement with Jackie Christiaens for FY2024-27. Motion carried.

FOOD INSPECTION AGREEMENT

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the new Food Inspection Agreement with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for the Sanitarian to conduct food inspections, effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for the amount of \$7,000.00. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$1,500

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the purchase of seven (7) land record books for the Clerk and Recorder's office in the amount of \$3,200.00. Funds will be taken from the Record's Preservation fund. Motion carried.

FEBRUARY 12, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

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

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING

February 6, 2025, Commissioners met with Tim Sheehy's and Troy Downing's representatives.

REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2025 CANCELLED

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to cancel the regular meeting of the Commissioners scheduled for February 26, 2025. Commissioners will be attending the MACO Annual Conference in Helena. Motion carried.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY CITY OF CONRAD

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for the City of Conrad on Blazen Road for storm water. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY JACOB & HALEY GRAY

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for Jacob & Haley Gray on Sam George Hill Road. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

REVISED JOB DESCRIPTIONS APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the revised job descriptions for part-time Dispatcher/Detention, (60% and 80%). Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

JANUARY COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the January 2025 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING STATE LEGISLATURE LIMITING OR PROHIBITING
MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF ITS
MEMBERS

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA

RESOLUTION #18 – 2024/25

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATURE LIMITING OR PROHIBITING
MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF ITS
MEMBERS

WHEREAS, Pondera County is a member of the Montana Association of Counties; and

WHEREAS, Mont. Code Ann. § 7-5-2141 authorizes and empowers Montana's counties to join and pay for such membership with county funds, allowing for the cooperation with other counties of this state to further good governance and to protect county interests; and

WHEREAS, the "Montana Association of County Commissioners" was formed in January 1909, for the purposes of providing advocacy on behalf of its members at the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, the Association was reorganized as the "Montana Association of Counties" to allow for the creation of a permanent office and authorized the hiring of an Executive Director and appropriate staff to further that purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Association of Counties represents all 56 counties in Montana and shares the same constituents as the entire Montana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, without Association representation on legislation that impacts counties throughout the state, advocacy by elected county officials will be muted through lack of representation in the Capitol Building; and

WHEREAS, the alternative of sending Commissioners to Helena will result in significant time and costs incurred by each member county; and

WHEREAS, while Zoom is an option for remote testimony, in our opinion it is not as effective as physical presence on a daily basis as legislation develops and does not allow meaningful participation outside the hearing rooms; and

WHEREAS, local governments are intergovernmental partners in performing the work demanded by our like constituents, and the passage of legislation requiring local governments to carry out the demands of the legislature requires consultation with intergovernmental partners to ensure the consequences are intended and decisions are informed (Bradley v. Saxbe, D.C.D.C. 1974. United States District Court, District of Columbia); and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana, The Legislature, Governor's Office, and other Statewide Elected Offices utilize and pay dues or fees with taxpayer funds for membership in similarly missioned organizations for advocacy on their behalf, which is inconsistent with the effort to limit the counties collective voices; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Association of Counties, with direction from its leadership as elected by the full membership, carries out advocacy on the collective policies and direction of County Elected Officials, primarily County Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by order of the Pondera County Commissioners, they hereby oppose any legislation that limits or prohibits lobbying by the Montana Association of Counties.

Adopted this 12th day of February, 2025, 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

FEBRUARY 19, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

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

APPOINTMENT OF RURAL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Rural Fire District Board members are elected to their positions. Montana law provides that if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of positions to be elected, the election administrator may cancel the election. In such case, the county governing body shall declare elected by acclamation each candidate who filed a nominating petition for a position. If a nomination is not made for one or more trustee offices, the county governing body shall appoint one or more trustees as necessary to fill those offices. A trustee taking office pursuant to this subsection serves the trustee term of office as if that trustee had been elected.

Clint Rouns filed a Declaration For Nomination. In accordance with Montana statute, Commissioner Drishinski moved to declare Clint Rouns elected by acclamation, for a term of three years. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

FEBRUARY 26, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

NO MEETING DUE TO THE COMMISSIONERS AT A MACO CONFERENCE

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

FUND

Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	166,084.96
2110	ROAD	19,705.89
2130	BRIDGE	177.74
2131	BRIDGE RAPID REPAIR	812.00
2140	WEED	1,536.63
2170	AIRPORT	14,726.32
2230	AMBULANCE	329.93
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	3,712.46
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	15,446.88
2390	DRUG FORFEITURE	1,288.00
2393	RECORDS PRESERVATION	1,270.69
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	296.35
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	762.55
2850	911 EMERGENCY	1,481.99
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	100.84
2894	ST ALLOC FED MINERAL ROY	130.00
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	274.60
2964	ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH	106.25
2971	WIC GRANT	74.89
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	118.80

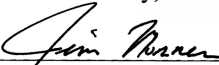
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	780.26
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	154.44
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	2,000.00
2996	LATCF	675.00
4009	PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL IMP	25,561.08
4012	GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMP	6500.00
7920	REFUND FUND	1,324.25

TOTAL CLAIMS		\$265,432.80
TOTAL PAYROLL		\$321,328.88
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS		\$586,761.68

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on February 28, 2025

Pondera County, Montana.



 Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:



 Kody L Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

