

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
Held in June 2023

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on June 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2023.

June 6, 2023 COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD PUBLIC HEARING:

Present: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, County Attorney Shari Lennon, & Compensation Board members Dan Majerus and John McFarland

Commissioner Morren called the hearing to order at 10:00 am.

The notice of the hearing was published in The Independent-Observer and The Valerian in the May 25 and June 1, 2023 issues.

Pursuant to 7-4-2503(4), Montana Code Annotated, county governments are required to appoint a county compensation board to prepare a compensation schedule for the elected county officials for the succeeding fiscal year. Also, in accordance with 7-4-2503(4), the Clerk and Recorder prepared and presented a worksheet showing salary comparisons to other counties as well as the City of Conrad and the Clerk of the Conrad School District and other demographics of the counties. The Board reviewed the worksheet. The National cost-of-living adjustment for the fiscal 2024 year is 8.0%.

There was discussion regarding the proposed options for cost-of-living increases in elected officials' salaries for the 2023-24 fiscal year. There was discussion on the possible expenditures for the upcoming year. A new boiler system is currently being installed in the courthouse, primarily paid for by COVID monies. An ambulance barn is in discussion, partially funded by COVID money and potentially grants. The Conrad Airport needs a new runway in order to stay in compliance with the FAA. There is 90% match available from the FAA and the Commissioners are exploring grant and/or loan options for the County's 10% match. Revenues from oil/gas as well as interest are expected to be higher than last year, but the cost of fuel and vehicle/equipment replacements are also anticipated to remain higher than past years.

After some discussion, Dan Majerus moved and John McFarland seconded to recommend an increase of up to 6.5% for elected officials. Motion carried.

The hearing closed at 10:15 am

June 7, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Clerk & Recorder Deputy Tammy Bartsch

PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED ON THREE FRACTIONAL LOTS IN CONRAD-

Attending: Commissioners Morren, Commissioner Kuka and Commissioner Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Farkell, Clerk & Recorder Deputy Bartsch, Paul Anderberg

The notice of the hearing was published in The Independent-Observer and The Valerian in the May 24th and 31st, 2023 issues.

Commissioner Morren called the hearing to order at 10:06 a.m. at the Pondera County Courthouse. Morren stated the intent of the hearing is to hear public comment input on three fractional lots in Conrad.

The hearing was closed at 10:10 a.m.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY DANIEL INABNIT-

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for Daniel Inabnit to install an approach to access 250 Highland Rd. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

TASK ORDER FOR IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve Task Order 24-07-4-31-133-0 to the Master Contract that covers the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, Immunization Program with the State of Montana Department of Health and Human Services. The County will receive \$6,238.00 in grant funding for FY2023-24. Motion carried.

PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING APPROVED

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Montana Stockgrowers Association and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Montana Wool Growers Association for predatory animal control in Pondera County. The County will pay \$1,687 for protection of sheep and \$8,679 for protection of cattle from predatory animals. Funding for these services comes from an assessment per head paid by the sheep and cattle owners. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR FRACTIONAL LOT IN CONRAD-

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve a Quit Claim Deed from the County to Daniel N Hicks & Lotita T Hicks for the following:

Fractional Lots 16 & 17 in Block 8 of Jones Third Addition to the Townsite of Conrad, Pondera County, Montana, according to the official map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Pondera County, Montana. Recorded document # 339737

Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR FRACTIONAL LOT IN CONRAD-

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve a Quit Claim Deed from the County to Carl Nagel for the following:

Fractional Lot 4 in Block 225 of Conrad Amended Central Addition to the Townsite of Conrad, Pondera County, Montana, according to the official map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Pondera County, Montana. Recorded document #339735.

Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR FRACTIONAL LOT IN CONRAD-

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve a Quit Claim Deed from the County to VanDyken Homes Inc. for the following:

Fractional Lot 12, Block 233, of Amended Central Addition to the Townsite of Conrad, Pondera County, Montana, according to the official map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Pondera County, Montana. Recorded document #339745.

Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

June 14, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Clerk & Recorder Deputy Tammy Bartsch, Public-Diana Agre, Jeanne Moon, Penny Douglas, Elodie Rauscher, Meagan Heinen, Judy Ketterling, Randy Wahl, Charlene Utterback, Paul Anderberg

PUBLIC HEARING AT 10:00 A.M. REGARDING NON-PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIONS

Commissioner Jim Morren called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. with the following commissioners, staff and guests present: Diana Agre, Jeanne Moon, Penny Douglas, Elodie Rauscher, Meagan Heinen, Judy Ketterling, Randy Wahl, Charlene Utterback, Paul Anderberg, Commissioners Jim Morren, Tom Kuka, Zane Drishinski; Kody Farkell (Clerk & Recorder), Tammy Bartsch

Public comments were heard by many on the reasons why Pondera County should change the way members of the community run for a position on the county level from partisan to non-partisan on a ballot. Diana Agre explained that 17 other counties (30%) have switched to non-partisan and believes more people will feel comfortable running for a

county position. Jeanne Moon felt that while she worked in the Treasurer Office, it didn't matter what party she ran under. She was there as a public servant.

The Commissioners will take into consideration all the comments. Meeting was adjourned 10:35 a.m.

TAX ABATEMENTS 1183-1188

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the following abatement:

NUMBER	REASON	CANCEL	ADD	PARCEL NO
1183	DOR made internal changes	0		2004000
1184	DOR made changes	0		2002000
1185	80% deduction on taxes	83.06		2009500
1186	DOR deducted the penalty charges	189.55		1307005
1187	Amended livestock return	73.90		1079680
1188	Update cattle amount		6.50	1031605

Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

AGREEMENT FOR TRANSFER OF ENTITLEMENTS

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the Agreement For Transfer of Entitlements for the Conrad Airport from the White Sulphur Springs Airport, Meagher County, Montana and Liberty County Airport, Liberty County, Montana. This transfer serves as a loan from Meagher County and Liberty County for Pondera County's current runway resurfacing airport project and will be repaid to Meagher County and Liberty County. Entitlement amount from Meagher County is \$300,00.00 and from Liberty County is \$297,052.00. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS- SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded an invitation to bid for snow removal equipment at the Conrad Airport. The invitation will be advertised June 14th and June 27th. Bid opening will begin 1:30 pm June 28th at RPA in Helena, Montana. Motion carried.

TASK ORDER AMENDMENT WITH 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 amendment provides the extended date of the grant to June 30, 2024 for the amount of \$30,745.00. Motion carried.

June 21, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Clerk & Recorder Deputy Tammy Bartsch, Public- Patrick Montalban, Nathan Stortz

Public Comment-

Patrick Montalban and Nathan Stortz informed the Commissioners of possible trucks running through Pondera County to dump water from a Bio-Mass refinery in Great Falls.

VALIER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT APPROVED

An agreement between the Town of Valier and Pondera County to provide law enforcement services was approved by Town of Valier. Agreement includes sum of \$66,720.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024; and \$69,000.00 for fiscal year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Payments are to be made on a quarterly basis in September, December, March, and June; beginning September 2023 and expiring June 2025. Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY BALKO INC

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for Balko Inc on Erickson Road. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

MAY COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the May 2023 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

June 28, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Clerk & Recorder Deputy Tammy Bartsch

TAX ABATEMENTS 1189-1191

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the following abatements:

NUMBER	REASON	CANCEL	ADD	PARCEL NO
1189	DOR updated the cattle amount	66.50		1312700
1190	DOR updated the cattle amount	5.00		1352450
1191	DOR made adjustments on parcels	31.25		Misc

Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY TAX APPEAL BOARD MEMBER

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded for appointing Dane Stewart to the County Tax Appeal Board. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$500

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of culverts for the Road/Bridge Department. The total will be \$18,246.96. The funds for this purchase will come out of BARSAA Fund. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO PONDERA COUNTY BUDGET

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #44 – 2022/23
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 correction 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:

Expenditure	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
2372-101-521000-823	Transfer to Health Ins Fund	\$245,328	\$336,756
2373-201-521000-823	Transfer to PERS Fund	\$22,557	\$30,930
2971-401-440171-210	Supplies	\$5,058	\$9,152

Adopted this 28th day of June, 2023, 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

/s/ Thomas A Kuka

Jim Morren, Chair

Thomas A Kuka, Member

ATTEST:

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

/s/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

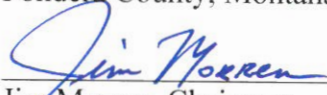
<u>FUND</u>		
Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	30,701.06
2110	ROAD	39,834.25
2130	BRIDGE	18,188.65
2140	WEED	11,286.26
2150	PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL	5,875.50
2170	AIRPORT	473.78
2220	LIBRARY	166,756.50
2230	AMBULANCE	762.38
2280	SENIOR CITIZENS	15,000.00
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	6,876.89
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	30,100.83
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	351.37
2811	DUI PREVENTION	500.00
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	4,506.65
2840	NOXIOUS WEED GRANT	213.64
2850	911 EMERGENCY	4,959.14
2851	E-911 & GPS/GIS PROJECT GRANT	4,702.50
2859	COUNTY LAND INFORMATION	5,844.22
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	783.00
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	245.39
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	2,874.57
2961	PERFORMANCE MTG GRANT	245.00
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	786.56
2964	ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH	376.37
2971	WIC GRANT	551.38
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	154.85
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	664.66
2995	ARPA	222,832.29
4009	PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL IMP	70.56
4012	GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMP	4,950.00
4013	ROAD/BRIDGE EQUIP PURCHASE	11,109.22
7920	REFUND FUND	4,110.14

TOTAL CLAIMS 596,687.61
 TOTAL PAYROLL \$ 307,541.91
 TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS \$ 904,229.52

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2023

Pondera County, Montana.


 Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kody Farkell

Kody L. Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

