

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
Held in February 2022**

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on February 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2022.

FEBRUARY 2, 2022 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Jim Morren, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public – Janelle Holdern (Valier Public Library Board), Chris Grotto (Valier Public Library Borad), Lacie Vermulm (Conrad Public Library Board), Carolyn Donath (Conrad Public Library Director), Glenda McKeone (Conrad Public Library Board), John Hadcock (Frontline Ag), Tiffany Christensen (Conrad Public Library), Agnes Fowler (City of Conrad), Rosanne Lockhart (County Attorney), Laura McIlvain (County Attorney Secretary)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Conrad and Valier Public Library representatives were present to discuss the voted levy for the libraries. See below the two letters, submitted by the library boards.

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Pondera County Commissioners
20 4th Avenue Southwest
Conrad, Montana 59425
(406) 271-4000
pococo@3rivers.net

Dear Pondera County Commissioners,

The Conrad Public Library Board of Trustees and the Valier Public Library Board of Trustees, together, respectfully request that the Commissioners adopt a resolution allowing a ballot issue to levy taxes on all property owners in order to provide funding for the public libraries in Pondera County on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, that the voters may approve or disapprove.

We ask for a continuation of the current tax levy, with the inflationary factor allowed by Montana law, distributed 70% to Conrad and 30% to Valier, each year for eight (8) years, beginning with tax year 2022, to provide funding to operate and maintain library services at the Conrad Public Library and the Valier Public Library.

The current tax levy for fiscal year 2021-2022 is equal to \$312,868 or 18.23 mills (\$219,007 or 12.761 mills to Conrad and \$93,860 or 5.469 mills to Valier).

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know which meeting date this request will be discussed at, as we are happy to attend in-person to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Lacie Vermulm, Chair
Conrad Public Library Board of Trustees
(406) 260-7769
board@conradlibrary.com

Tawnee Hartwell, Chair
Valier Public Library Board of Trustees
(406) 460-1157
vpltrustee3@gmail.com


Carolyn Donath, Director
Conrad Public Library
(406) 271-5751
director@conradlibrary.com

Cathy Brandvold, Director
Valier Public Library
(406) 279-3366
valierlibrary@gmail.com

cc: City of Conrad Mayor and Council
Town of Valier Mayor and Council

January 26, 2022

Pondera County Commissioners
 20 4th Avenue Southwest
 Conrad, Montana 59425
 (406) 271-4000
pococo@3rivers.net

Dear Pondera County Commissioners,

The Valier Public Library Board of Trustees have been in touch with the Conrad Public Library Board of Trustees. We are at an impasse as to the split of the current library levy. We believe the \$312,869 or 18.23 mills for fiscal year 2022-2023 should be split with 7.29 mills going to Valier Public Library. Since we have been unable to come to an agreement with the Conrad Public Library about the distribution percentages, we are asking the commissioners to set that percentage on the ballot and to please add this to your next weekly agenda.

Historically, the two libraries have received a much closer distribution percentage from the county than the current mill levy split of 70% to Conrad and 30% to Valier. In 2009, the Commissioners distributed the voted levy at 57% to the Conrad Library and 43% to the Valier Library and the regular levy at 64% to the Conrad Library and 36% to the Valier Library. The split of 60% to the Conrad Library and 40% to the Valier Library that we are proposing gets us closer to historical county-wide appropriations and keeps the same levels of services available to county residents while not raising taxes further.

We believe this is a fair distribution of funds for the upcoming eight year period because the Valier Library has expanded and increased services to patrons. We are currently planning for the retirement of our director and will need additional funds for hiring. We are waiting for notice of insurance premiums going up and higher rates of inflation. If the apportionment between the two libraries stays the same we will have difficulty maintaining our current levels of service. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to ensure a tax levy that provides fair funding for both libraries in Pondera County.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tawnee Hartwell, Chair
 Valier Public Library Board of Trustees

/s/ Cathy Brandvold, Director
 Valier Public Library

/s/ Janelle Holden, Vice Chair
 Valier Public Library Board of Trustees

/s/ Kathy Dean, Trustee
 Valier Public Library Board of Trustees

/s/ Chris Grotbo, Trustee
 Valier Public Library Board of Trustees

/s/ VerRhanda EagleSpeaker
 Valier Public Library Board of Trustees

Conrad and Valier Public Libraries receive their funds from a combined levy. Since they are not able to come to an agreed decision, the Commissioners will decide at next week's regular meeting.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$500 APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the purchase of a hydraulic press for a total of \$2330.00. The purchase will be paid from the Road/Bridge Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF DUES TO CONRAD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved to pay the dues to the Conrad Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$125. The dues were included in the FY2022-23 budget. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

FEBRUARY 9, 2022 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Jim Morren, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public – Kathy DeBoo Dean, Carolyn Donath, Liz Thessen, Anna Pollard, Tiffany Christensen, Brooke Culver, McKenzie Graye, Angela Wells, Patrick Heinen, Jack Hadcock, Zane Drishinski, Melissa Willis, Agnes Fowler, Karla Breeding, Janelle Holden,

Christine Grotto, David Cates, Syd Kincaid Park, Jamie Miller, Sheron Curry, Robert Skorupa

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was representation from Valier Library Board, Conrad Library Board, Valier Citizens and Conrad Citizens. Comments consisted of budgets from both libraries, programs and projects from both libraries, and the library mill levy from 8 years ago.

LIBRARY LEVY

Commissioner Morren moved to move forward with the library levy to be placed on the ballot, for a change of a eight (8) year term to a four (4) year term, and to include a mediator to help come to a solution. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

CONTRACT WITH MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the contract with Montana Department of Commerce CDBG. The purpose of this Contract is to provide funding to Pondera County for planning activities approved by the Department. The total amount to be awarded shall not exceed \$30,000. Motion carried.

CONRAD AIRPORT HANGAR LEASE APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the Conrad Airport Hangar Lease with Big Sky Equipment for the amount of \$240.00 per year. Motion carried.

RESERVATION COUNTIES PAYMENT

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded the annual payment of dues to The Reservation Counties of \$550. Motion carried.

FEBRUARY 16, 2022 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Jim Morren, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Road/Bridge Superintendent Steve Kaphammer

REGULAR MEETING MARCH 2 & 30, 2022 CANCELLED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to cancel the regular meetings of the Commissioners scheduled for March 2 & 30, 2022. Commissioners will be attending the Montana Association of Counties Road Supervisors Conference in Great Falls and the MACO Annual Conference. Motion carried.

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:

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

RESOLUTION ON AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO PONDERA COUNTY BUDGET

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #26 – 2021/22
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:

Revenues	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
2943-331021	CDBG Grant-PMC Boiler	\$0	\$450,000
Expenditure	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
2943-501-430620-350	PMC Boiler	\$0	\$450,000

Adopted this 23rd day of February, 2022, as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Morren, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective on passage and approval.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Dale J Seifert
Dale J Seifert, Chair

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
Thomas A Kuka, Member

ATTEST:

/s/ Jim Morren
Jim Morren, Member

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

RESOLUTION ON GRANTING REQUEST FOR BALLOT ISSUE TO LEVY TAXES ON ALL COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE CONRAD & VALIER LIBRARIES

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
RESOLUTION #27 – 2021/22
GRANTING REQUEST FOR BALLOT ISSUE TO LEVY TAXES ON ALL COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE CONRAD & VALIER LIBRARIES

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners has received requests from the Board of Trustees of the Conrad Public Library as well as the Board of Trustees of the Valier Public Library requesting that a ballot issue be placed on the June 7, 2022 primary election ballot; and

WHEREAS the Library voted levy passed by voters in 2012 in the amount of \$194,500 per year, plus an inflationary factor as allowed by Montana law, expired in tax year 2021. In the tax year 2021 the levy generated approximately 18.23 mills, \$312,868. The Conrad and Valier Library Boards of Trustees request that the voters of Pondera County be given the opportunity to approve or disapprove a continuation of the levy, beginning with tax year 2022 for a period of four (4) years, for the purpose of operating and maintaining the libraries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners that a ballot issue be placed on the June 7, 2022 ballot in order that the voters may approve or disapprove continuation of the current voted levy for a period of four (4) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, subject to the approval of the Pondera County Clerk and Recorder and County Attorney, the form on the ballot shall be as follows:

Shall the Pondera County Commissioners be authorized to levy sufficient additional mills on all taxable property within Pondera County to generate approximately \$312,868 (approximately 18.23 mills), plus an inflationary factor allowed by Montana law, beginning with tax year 2022, for four (4) years for the purpose of funding the operations of the Conrad and Valier Public Libraries?

The financial impact of the total of \$312,868 on a home having a market value of \$50,000 is estimated to be \$12.30 each year of the levy, \$24.61 for a home having a market value of \$100,000 and \$49.21 for a home having a market value of \$200,000.

Of the total funding requested, the Conrad Library would receive \$219,008, plus an inflationary factor allowed by Montana law, and the Valier Library would receive \$93,860, plus an inflationary factor allowed by Montana law.

Additional Information: In 2012, the voters approved a levy request which expired in 2021. This levy request is a continuation of the 2012 approved request.

FOR additional levy
 AGAINST additional levy

Adopted this 23rd day of February, 2022 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Morren and passed on a 3-0 vote of the full board. Effective on passage and approval.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Dale J Seifert
 Dale J Seifert, Chair

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
 Thomas A Kuka, Member

ATTEST:

/s/ Jim Morren
 Jim Morren, Member

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

COUNTY JOB APPLICATION CHANGES

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the changes on the Pondera County job application. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

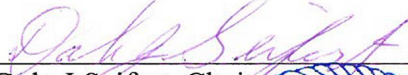
<u>FUND</u>		
Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	26,432.63
2110	ROAD	14,700.94
2130	BRIDGE	331.97
2140	WEED	1,041.78
2170	AIRPORT	11,999.87
2230	AMBULANCE	2,554.68
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	513.52
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	10,777.63
2393	RECORDS PRESERVATION	44.00
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	280.94
2811	DUI PREVENTION	67.50
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	13.50
2850	911 EMERGENCY	692.85
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	2,452.75
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	333.63
2894	ST ALLOC FED MINERAL ROY	125.00
2943	CDBG-PMC/LOGAN HEALTH BOILER	441,000.00
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	4,807.57
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	170.00
2964	ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH	381.12
2971	WIC GRANT	-51.72
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	2,050.30
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	181.85
4009	PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL IMP	7,195.00
4013	ROAD/BRIDGE EQUIP PURCHASE	39,200.00

7920	REFUND FUND	112.63
TOTAL CLAIMS		567,409.94
TOTAL PAYROLL		\$ 295,876.63
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS		\$ 863,286.57

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on February 28, 2022

Pondera County, Montana.


Dale J Seifert, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kody L Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

