

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

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on July 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2023.

**July 5, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Deputy Tammy Bartsch, Public- Paul Anderberg

TAX ABATEMENTS 1192

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the following abatement:

NUMBER	REASON	CANCEL	ADD	PARCEL NO
1192	NMJRDD remove fee	265.00		2003100

Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

FIRST & SECOND DRAWDOWN FOR FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION PROJECT PAYMENT

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve drawdown #1 & #2 for the Federal Aviation Administration Project for the Pondera County Airport in the amount of \$23,740.00 & \$124,370.00. The funds will pay Robert Peccia & Associates to be used towards the Pondera County airport snow removal equipment and the runway project. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON LOAN TO FUNDS HAVING NEGATIVE CASH BALANCES AT FISCAL YEAR END

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA  
RESOLUTION #1 – 2023/24  
LOAN TO FUNDS HAVING NEGATIVE CASH BALANCES  
AT FISCAL YEAR END

WHEREAS, generally accepted standards for governmental accounting does not allow for negative cash balances in any fund, including reimbursable grant funds, at the close of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, four County funds,

- Fund 2150, Predatory Animal (\$358.89)
- Fund 2851, E-911 & GPS/GIS Grant (\$4,702.50)
- Fund 2862, Pondera Co Growth Policy CDBG Grant (\$2,021.57)
- Fund 2964, Alliance For Youth Grant (\$1,876.10)
- Fund 2971, WIC Grant (\$5,086.66)

have negative cash balances as of June 30, 2023 due to the nature of the funds as reimbursable grant funds; and

WHEREAS, Pondera County General Fund has sufficient cash to loan the funds having negative cash balances on June 30, 2023 in order that the funds will not have a deficient cash balance; and

WHEREAS the funds shall repay the loan and interest at 0% per annum to the general fund from the revenue to be received, anticipated to be in July 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County that the Clerk and Recorder effect the loans to any and all funds having negative cash balances on June 30, 2023 from the county General funds and that the loans be repaid as stated above as soon as feasible.

Adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Drishinski, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective upon passage and approval.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Jim Morren  
Jim Morren, Chairman

/s/ Thomas A Kuka  
Thomas A Kuka, Member

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

/s/ Zane Drishinski  
Zane Drishinski, Member

DATE, TIME AND PLACE SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING OF THE STRAIGHTENING OF DEPOT ROAD

Commissioner Drishinski moved to set Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioners office as the date, time and place for a public hearing on the straightening of Depot Road. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

**July 12, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

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

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CONTRACT APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the County Superintendent of Schools Agreement with Jackie Christiaens for FY2023-24. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$500-APPROVED

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the purchase of a 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit for Pondera County Sheriff Department in the amount of \$40,363.00. The funds for this purchase will come out of the Public Safety Capital Improvement. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S SECURITIES REPORT

STIP \$6,002,000.00 @ 5.0792142%

**STOCKMAN BANK BALANCES \$6,913,171.27**

**STOCKMAN BANK –Collateral Report**

3133EMWL2	\$5,600,000.00	FFCB	.20%	07/19/2023
3137BBBD1	\$789,560.32	FMHS	3.39%	03/25/2024
36178DMW8	\$480,747.85	GNMA2	3.00%	10/20/2042
3136AY6S7	\$302,643.57	FNA	2.62%	11/25/2024
3130AS6X2	\$1,000,000.00	FED	3.15%	12/9/2024

**RAYMOND JAMES**

14042RMS7	\$250,000.00	2.200%	Due 08/07/2023 (CD)
12527CEX6	\$250,000.00	3.40%	Due 12/31/2024 (CD)
07371AYT4	\$250,000.00	2.05%	Due 02/24/2027(CD)
795451AN3	\$250,000.00	1.05%	Due 08/18/2026 (CD)

**INDEPENDENCE BANK**

CDARS 1026170075	08/10/23	2.00971%	\$250,000.00
CDARS 1026239636	08/31/23	2.05873%	\$250,000.00
CDARS 1025163555	08/10/23	.34940%	\$500,000.00
CDARS 1025220281	08/31/23	.34940%	\$1,000,000.00
CDARS 1026334078	10/05/23	3.0000%	\$500,000.00
CDARS 1027154812	11/02/23	4.9800%	\$1,000,000.00
CDARS 1026239644	08/29/24	2.54736%	250,000.00

**BUCHANAN CAPITAL**

JBMORGAN CHASE &	48128WFM2	01/17/24	.95%	\$250,000.00
BEAL BANK USA	07371CYK9	01/17/24	.65%	\$250,000.00
BEAL BANK SSB	07371AUZ4	01/17/24	.65%	\$250,000.00
FHLB	3130AQGZ0	07/25/24	1.06%	\$250,000.00
AMERICAN EXPRESS	02589ADS8	08/19/24	3.35%	\$250,000.00
UBS BANK USA	90348JZ37	01/13/25	.85%	\$250,000.00
FHLB	3130AQHF3	01/27/25	1.125%	\$250,000.00
FHLB	3130AQJM6	01/28/25	1.25%	\$250,000.00
FHLB	3130AQKB8	01/28/25	1.375%	\$250,000.00
NICOLET NTNL BANK	654062LB2	03/28/25	4.10%	\$250,000.00
DISCOVER BANK	254673U46	10/05/26	4.3%	\$250,000.00

**July 19, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Deputy Tammy Bartsch, Public- Paul Anderberg

TASK ORDER CONTRACT FOR DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS & CONGREGATE LIVING COORDINATORS AMENDMENT #2

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the amended Disease Intervention Specialists & Congregate Living Coordinators Task Order for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. Motion carried.

JUNE COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED

Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the June 2023 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVED

Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve the Noxious Weed Management Plan for Pondera County 2023 as prepared by the Pondera County Weed District. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

**July 26, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Deputy Tammy Bartsch, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Road/Bridge Superintendent Steve Kaphammer, Frosty DeBoo, Public- Paul Anderberg

PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED ON STRAIGHTEN OF DEPOT ROAD-

Attending: Commissioners Morren, Commissioner Kuka and Commissioner Drishinski, Clerk & Recorder Farkell, Clerk & Recorder Deputy Bartsch, Road/Bridge Superintendent Steve Kaphammer, Frosty DeBoo, Paul Anderberg

The notice of the hearing was published in The Independent-Observer and The Valerian in the July 12th and 19th, 2023 issues.

Commissioner Morren called the hearing to order at 10:04 a.m. at the Pondera County Courthouse. Morren stated the intent of the hearing is to hear public comment input on straightening of Depot Road. Darrin Johnson provided a petition with 10 signers. Road/Bridge Superintendent stated that the cost could be upwards of \$17,500.

Commissioner Kuka moved to table the request for straightening Depot Road, being there was no second to the motion the motion died. Commissioner Drishinski moved to decline the request. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

The hearing was closed at 10:15 a.m.

EIGHTH DRAWDOWN FOR FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION PROJECT PAYMENT

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve drawdown #8 for the Federal Aviation Administration Project for the Pondera County Airport in the amount of \$3,642.06. The funds will pay Robert Peccia & Associates to be used towards the Pondera County airport planning grant. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$500-APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of a repeater for the dispatcher's radio system, for the Sheriff's Office. The total will be \$17,125.00. The funds for this purchase will come out of the 911 Fund. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON PONDERA COUNTY STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

PONDERA COUNTY  
RESOLUTION #2 – 2023/24  
PONDERA COUNTY STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS, continued high temperatures and low precipitation have occurred within Pondera County during the months of June & July, 2023, resulting in dry fuel conditions and poor soil moisture conditions has contributed to a High wildland fire danger: and

WHEREAS, the Pondera County Board of County Commissioners declares that all the private land not under the jurisdiction of the municipalities of state or federal agencies is a high fire hazard area.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Pondera County Commissioners that a County Stage I Fire Restrictions/Open Burning Ban is in effect for all lands in Pondera County, due to HIGH wildland fire danger. The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire, unless noted and allowed in the exemptions stated below.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
3. All county-issued burning permits are suspended until further notice and no new burning permits will be issued.

## EXEMPTIONS:

1. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within 3 feet of the device.
2. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
3. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force while in the performance of an official duty.
4. All land within a city or town boundary is exempted.

## VIOLATIONS:

1. You could be fined up to \$5,000 individually or \$10,000 for an organization and imprisonment up to 6 months for violating restrictions and closures.
2. You can be held liable for all suppression costs and damages if you start a fire.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all activities that might potentially cause a fire shall cease immediately and be prohibited until further notice.

AN EXEMPTION DOES NOT ABSOLVE AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION FROM LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY FIRE STARTED BY THE EXEMPTED ACTIVITY.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution becomes effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it may be amended or rescinded by the Board of the Pondera County Commissioners.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Morren, and passed on a 2-0 vote of the board. Effective on passage and approval.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Jim Morren  
Jim Morren, Chair

/s/ Thomas A Kuka  
Thomas A. Kuka, Member

Attest: /s/ Kody L Farkell  
Kody L. Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

/s/ Zane Drishinsk  
Zane Drishinski, Member

RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA  
RESOLUTION #3 – 2023/24  
RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County, with great sorrow and a deep sense of loss, wish to remember and honor Dale J Seifert, who passed away on July 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Dale J Seifert rendered innumerable public services to Pondera County, to the State of Montana, and to the people thereof; and

WHEREAS, the absence of Dale J Seifert is keenly felt as a great personal loss to his family, friends and colleagues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County, this 26th day of July, 2023, that the County of Pondera does hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dale J Seifert and, on behalf of its members and the citizens of the State of Montana, does hereby express gratitude for his achievements and contributions to the public good of Pondera County and to Montana; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that flags on County property be flown at half-staff on Thursday, July 27, 2023 from sunrise to sunset in honor of Dale J Seifert.

Adopted this 26th day of July, 2023 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Drishinski, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective on passage and approval.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Jim Morren  
Jim Morren, Chair

/s/ Thomas A Kuka  
Thomas A. Kuka, Member

Attest: /s/ Kody L Farkell  
Kody L. Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

/s/ Zane Drishinski  
Zane Drishinski, Member

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

<u>FUND</u>	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	47,326.21
2110	ROAD	12,282.23
2130	BRIDGE	8,431.57
2140	WEED	4,924.63
2160	COUNTY FAIR	33.17
2170	AIRPORT	5,169.63

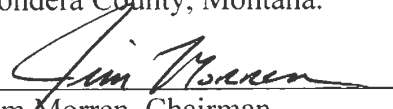
2190	COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE	175,755.92
2230	AMBULANCE	172.51
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	6,271.31
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	12,000.14
2371	HEALTH INSURANCE - EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION	152.29
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	351.35
2811	DUI PREVENTION	500.00
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	13.25
2850	911 EMERGENCY	506.01
2862	PONDERA CO GROWTH POLICY	3,789.00
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	4,580.98
2917	VICTIM & WITNESS ADV PROG	731.00
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	318.95
2961	PERFORMANCE MTG GRANT	245.00
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	106.25
2964	ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH	914.01
2971	WIC GRANT	934.68
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	843.56
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	415.51
4012	GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMP	13,312.50

TOTAL CLAIMS		300,081.66
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$	331,961.53
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS	\$	632,043.19

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on July 31, 2023

Pondera County, Montana.

  
 Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
 Kody L Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

