

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

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on September 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022.

SEPTEMBER 7, 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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG) COUNTY CONTRIBUTION COMMITMENT

Commissioner Morren moved to sign a letter of commitment for \$35,610.32 (50% match) for the FY2022-23 EMPG program period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS WITH ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES, CONRAD AIRPORT PROJECT

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the Contract documents with Robert Peccia & Associates for contract engineering services for AIP Project No. 3-30-0018-012-2022. Funding for these services will be from the FAA grant in the amount of \$75,114 and county matching funds of \$8,346. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 2:00 PM REGARDING CDBG GRANT

Commissioner Dale Seifert called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. with the following commissioners, staff and guests present: Roger Keith, Becky Gollehon, Alice Gollehon, Patricia Harding, Vince Scofield (Ameresco), Matt Thompson (Ameresco), Commissioners Jim Morren, Tom Kuka; Sarah Converse (NCMEDD aka Sweetgrass Development), Kody Farkell (Clerk & Recorder), Tammy Bartsch, Kathy Woodford (PRPA)

Dale Seifert read the notice for the first Community Development Block Grant public hearing. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain public comments regarding the overall community development needs in Pondera County. Anyone who wants more information or to submit comments can contact Rob Cook, Executive Director of the Pondera Regional Port Authority.

Alice Gollehon, Becky Gollehon, Roger Keith, and Patricia Harding discussed the need for either improved senior citizens housing at the existing Horizon Lodge and Blue Sky Villa, or build more affordable low-income housing units. They discussed the poor building maintenance at Lodge and Villa as well as unacceptable meals provided to the residents.

They claimed serious management issues that are ignored when discussed at their board meetings. Also, Alice and Becky said they were "locked out" of some of the meetings, being told the public was not allowed to attend. They have tried to get these issues resolved through the County Attorney's office, state Family Services, with letters to the Editor of the Independent Observer, and the Conrad Mayor. To-date, they have not received any help. They hoped by reaching out to the County Commissioners, perhaps something could be done.

Commissioner Morren suggested that as the city of Conrad owns Blue Sky Villa, and since the Lodge is privately owned, they are not under county jurisdiction. Commissioner Seifert said they could work with other groups, including Sweetgrass Development, the Port Authority and the city to help them with this issue. Morren also said it would be easier to fix the situation at the current senior living facilities than to try and build new facilities.

Sarah Converse said that Sweetgrass Development is in the process of doing CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) surveys for their next five-year economic development plan. They have been going to various communities to get

surveys filled out and the survey is available online. They will be accepting surveys until the end of the month.

Matt Thompson commented that the plans for an Ambulance Barn are coming along. They will include housing for emergency personnel and possible traveling nurses. There was general consensus that there is a need for more affordable housing in the area. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 14, 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, Robert Bruskotter (Senator Daine’s Office), Marvin R Weatherwax Jr. (BTBC/HD15), John Murray (Historic Preservation/Blackfeet Tribe), Pat Armstrong (BTBC), Lauren Monroe Jr. (Vice Chairman BTBC), Shelly M. Hall (BTBC), Everett Armstrong (BTBC), Lyle Rutherford (BTBC)

RESOLUTION ON AUTHORIZING PROSECUTORIAL ASSISTANCE IN RAYMOND VANDENBOS MATTER

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA
 RESOLUTION #9 – 2022/23
AUTHORIZING PROSECUTORIAL ASSISTANCE
 IN RAYMOND VANDENBOS MATTER

WHEREAS, the Pondera County Attorney has requested prosecutorial assistance in the matter of Raymond Vandenbos, Pondera County Cause No. DC-21-03; and

WHEREAS, Mont. Code Ann. Section 7-4-2705 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to employ Special Counsel to assist in the prosecution of any criminal case pending in the County or to represent the County in any civil action in which the county is a party; and

WHEREAS, Terryl Matt, Glacier County Attorney, has agreed to act as a Special Counsel for Raymond Vandenbos and authorized Joe Sherwood, Deputy Glacier County Attorney, to also act as Special Counsel;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED: That, Terryl Matt, Glacier County Attorney, and Joe Sherwood, Deputy Glacier County Attorney, shall be appointed as Special Counsel for Pondera County for the purpose of assisting in the prosecution of Raymond Vandenbos, Pondera County Cause No. DC-21-03, and that they can fulfill the functions and duties of the Pondera County Attorney’s Office as set out in Mont. Code Ann. Section 7-4-2711 *et seq.*

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: That under the terms of this agreement, mileage shall be paid to each for any travel expenses incurred during the prosecution of any matters at the current rate of \$0.625 per mile. Witness fees and expense, jury costs, and other normal costs associated with the prosecution will be the county’s responsibility as with all other prosecutions including a reasonable hourly rate for attorney time.

Adopted this 14th day of September, 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, Chairman

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
 Thomas A Kuka, Member

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

/s/ Jim Morren
 Jim Morren, Member

APPROVE DEPUTY CLAIMS CLERK FOR STOCKMAN BANK ACCOUNTS

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to add Claims Clerk Dalayne VanDyke to Stockman Bank petty cash account and Clerk & Recorder safe deposit box and to remove Barbara Hoggan from those accounts. Motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 CANCELLED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to cancel the regular meeting of the Commissioners scheduled for September 28, 2022. Commissioners will be attending the MACO Annual Conference in Billings. Motion carried.

AUGUST COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the August 2022 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Morren moved to set Wednesday, October 5, 2022 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. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

TASK ORDER FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPROVED

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve Task Order 23-25-5-01-037-0 to the Master Contract that Covers the Period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program with the State of Montana Department of Health and Human Services. The County will receive \$5,141.00 in grant funding for FY2022-23. Motion carried.

BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING

Members from the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council met with the Commissioners, looking for their support in the return of the ceded strip of Badger/Two Medicine land. There is a total of 130,000 acres.

SEPTEMBER 21, 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, Zane Drishinski

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR PONDERA COUNTY MOTOR VEHICLE & GENERAL CLERK

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the job description for a full time Motor Vehicle & General Clerk for the Treasurer Office. Motion carried.

RENEWAL OF INMATE EXCESS MEDICAL INSURANCE

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to renew the Inmate Excess Medical Insurance with Correctional Risk Services, Inc. at the rate of \$1.09 per inmate per day for medical coverage, mental/nervous disorder treatment, substance abuse treatment, pregnancy, and AIDS/ARD/HIV treatment. Effective dates of coverage: November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON ESTABLISHING SATELLETE ELECTION OFFICE ON BLACKFEET RESERVATION IN HEART BUTTE FOR THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION

RESOLUTION #10 – 2021/22

ESTABLISHING SATELLITE ELECTION OFFICE ON BLACKFEET RESERVATION IN HEART BUTTE FOR THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, the Montana Secretary of State has issued Election Directive #01-2015 dated October 15, 2015, to all Counties in Montana with an American Indian reservation that includes voting-eligible residents to open satellite election offices on those reservations, if certain conditions are met;

WHEREAS, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council has requested a Satellite Election Office on the Blackfeet Reservation in Heart Butte, Pondera County, Montana, and has agreed to provide an appropriate location for said office which meets the criteria for an appropriate office as detailed in the Election Directive #01-2015; and

WHEREAS, based on census data and current voter registration numbers for the Heart Butte Precinct, Pondera County officials agree to establish a Satellite Election Office on the Blackfeet Reservation in Heart Butte for the November 8, 2022 Federal General Election as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Tuesday, October 18, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, November 3, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that based on census data and current voter registration numbers for the Heart Butte Precinct, Pondera County officials agree to establish a Satellite Election Office on the Blackfeet Reservation in Heart Butte for the November 8, 2022 Federal General Election as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Tuesday, October 18, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, November 3, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Satellite Election Office on the Blackfeet Reservation will be in place for the Federal Primary Election, the days and hours will be evaluated after the November 8, 2022 Federal General Election and adapted, if necessary, prior to setting days and hours for future elections.

Adopted this 21st day of September, 2022 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Morren, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective upon passage and approval.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Dale J Seifert
Dale J Seifert, Chairman

/s/ Thomas A Kuka
Thomas A Kuka, Member

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

/s/ Jim Morren
Jim Morren, Member

APPROVE COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR STOCKMAN BANK ACCOUNTS

Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to add County Attorney Shari Lennon and incoming Treasurer Shaunna Graham to Stockman Bank accounts, and removing Rosanne Lockhart and Elaine McLean. Motion carried.

MSU EXTENSION SERVICE AGREEMENT

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the FY2023 Extension Services Agreement between Montana State University Extension and Pondera County. The Agreement includes the amount budgeted for the Extension Office in Pondera County, including the County portion of the Agents' salaries which is set at 65% of the Clerk and Recorder's base salary for each Agent. The total is \$70,123.08 for all agents. Motion carried.

SECOND HEARING FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Present: Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Tom Kuka, Commissioner, Jim Morren, Vince Scofield, Matt Thompson, Kelly Axtman, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch

Commissioner Dale Seifert called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m opening with the reading of the public notice. The notice of the hearing was published in The Independent-Observer and the Valerian September 7 and 14, 2022 issues. The Community Development Block Grant is for an amount of \$750,000, with a 25% match from Pondera County, in the amount of \$187,500. Representatives, from Ameresco, presented three preliminary options for the Pondera County Ambulance Barn. Option #1 has 5400 square feet, where option #2 & #3 has 3900 square feet. Options #1 & #2 have 4 bedrooms and an ½ bathroom, for public use, in attention to 2 bathrooms. Option #3 has 3 bedrooms and no ½ bathroom. In addition, options #1 & #2 have better access to Sunset Blvd., resulting in a faster response time. Commissioners agreed that option #2 was the best option. All options are available at the Commissioner's office in the courthouse.

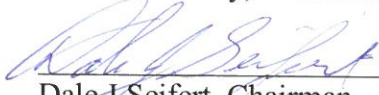
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

| <u>FUND</u> | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Fund | Fund Description | |
| 1000 | GENERAL | 40,468.50 |
| 2110 | ROAD | 34,390.44 |
| 2130 | BRIDGE | 4,314.67 |
| 2140 | WEED | 1,978.72 |
| 2170 | AIRPORT | 85,087.00 |
| 2230 | AMBULANCE | 799.25 |
| 2290 | EXTENSION SERVICE | 509.90 |
| 2300 | PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT) | 69,086.93 |
| 2393 | RECORDS PRESERVATION | 558.27 |
| 2401 | BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE | 282.62 |
| 2830 | JUNK VEHICLE | 3,172.50 |
| 2850 | 911 EMERGENCY | 692.85 |
| 2860 | LAND USE PLANNING | 6,647.48 |
| 2866 | NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL | 18,075.60 |
| 2958 | EP (DES) GRANTS | 1,486.87 |
| 2960 | TOWN PUMP GRANT | 640.00 |
| 2963 | ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT | 772.96 |
| 2964 | ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH | 237.39 |
| 2971 | WIC GRANT | 165.78 |
| 2973 | MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH | 96.85 |
| 2976 | IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT | 355.65 |
| 2978 | CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT | 96.85 |
| 4009 | PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL IMP | 526.51 |
| 7920 | REFUND FUND | 499.12 |
| TOTAL CLAIMS | | 270,942.71 |
| TOTAL PAYROLL | | \$ 308,112.89 |
| TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS | | \$ 579,055.60 |

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2022

Pondera County, Montana.



 Dale J Seifert, Chairman

ATTEST:



 Kody L Parkell, Clerk & Recorder

