

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA  
Held in June 2020**

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on June 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2020.

**JUNE 3, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Jim Morren, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell.

TAX ABATEMENTS 1106 APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved to approve the following abatement:

NUMBER	REASON	CANCEL	ADD	PARCEL NO
1106	Owner deceased	5.00		1041400

Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved to approve the Encroachment Agreement requested by the Chad Rambo to install a culvert in an approach on Showdown Road. Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

MAY COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED

Commissioner Seifert moved and Commissioner Morren seconded to approve the May 2020 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

SET DATE, TIME, PLACE TO CANVASS JUNE 5 ELECTION RESULTS

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Seifert seconded to set June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Office as the date, time, and place for the Canvass of the 2020 Federal Primary Election. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$500 APPROVED

The Road/Bridge Department and County Sanitarian (Junk Vehicle Program) asked to purchase a 1999 F800 Service truck from Price Truck & Equipment in the amount of \$18,000, to be paid for by their departments. The Road/Bridge also requested to purchase a 2006 Telehandler for \$29,999. Commissioner Morren moved to purchase the equipment for the quoted amounts. Commissioner Seifert second. Motion carried.

**JUNE 10, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Jim Morren, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, & Pondera Regional Port Authority Executive Director Rob Cook

TAX ABATEMENTS 1107-1108 APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved to approve the following abatement:

NUMBER	REASON	CANCEL	ADD	PARCEL NO
1107	Mobile home exemption	41.94		393950
1108	Tax 10 years old or older	23,342.77		Misc.

Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR LOAN FORGIVENESS FROM PORT AUTHORITY & REQUEST FOR NEW LOAN APPROVED

Rob Cook, Executive Director of the Pondera Regional Port Authority, met with Commissioners to request for loan forgiveness of the loan payment in the amount of \$12,962.50 under the current fiscal year. The written request outlined the Port Authority's role in economic development and the need for the loan forgiveness in order to keep up operating costs, as well as to maintain a fund for further economic development. Commissioner Morren moved to approve the loan forgiveness of

repayment and to treat the loan as a transfer of funds for fiscal year 2019-20.  
Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Morren moved to authorize a fiscal year 2020-21 loan to the Pondera Regional Port Authority in the amount of \$12,962.50 from PILT funds received.  
Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

#### DUI TASK FORCE PLAN APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved to approve the fiscal year 2020-21 DUI Task Force plan.  
Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPAREDNESS GRANT APPROVED

Commissioner Seifert moved to approve the Emergency Management Preparedness Grant State and Local Agreement between the State of Montana Department of Emergency Services and Pondera County. Under the terms of this Agreement, Pondera County will be reimbursed approximately one-half (1/2) of the operating expense of the County Disaster and Emergency Services department, up to \$30,542.85 for the time period July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

#### **JUNE 16, 2020 FEDERAL PRIMARY ELECTION CANVASS:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Jim Morren, & Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell.

#### CANVASS OF THE JUNE 2, 2020 FEDERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Commissioner and Canvass Board member Dale Seifert moved to approve the canvass of the June 2, 2020 Federal Primary Election conducted by Commissioner Kuka, Commissioner Seifert, and Commissioner Morren, and to direct the Clerk and Recorder to enter the official results in the records of the County. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

#### **JUNE 17, COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD PUBLIC HEARING:**

Present: Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Jim Morren, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, County Attorney Mary Ann Ries, Justice of the Peace Cody Shaw, & Compensation Board members Dan Majerus and John McFarland

Commissioner Seifert called the hearing to order at 9:00 a.m.

The notice of the hearing was published in The Independent-Observer and The Valerian in the June 3 and June 10, 2020 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 federal cost-of-living adjustment for the fiscal 2021 year is 1.8%. Commissioner Morren stated that there are 14 counties with base elected official salaries lower than Pondera County's.

There was discussion regarding the proposed options for cost-of-living increases in elected officials' salaries for the 2020-21 fiscal year. There was discussion on the potential impact on tax revenues as a result of COVID-19, job loss, business closures, etc. Tax collection for fiscal year 2019-20 is currently at 96%. The County does expect to see a decrease in oil & gas monies, however, that is not a large portion of our revenues. MACo is currently working on behalf of the counties to assist with getting COVID-19 assistance money allotted to the State for disbursement. The County continues to pay on loans to pay for the cost of replacing the courthouse HVAC system and Conrad airport improvements.

John McFarland moved and Dan Majerus seconded to recommend an increase of up to 3.0% for elected officials, which equates to a \$.70 per hour increase. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The hearing closed at 9:30 a.m.

**JUNE 17, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Jim Morren, and Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell

TAX ABATEMENTS 1109 APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved to approve the following abatement:

NUMBER	REASON	CANCEL	ADD	PARCEL NO
1109	AB 26 Decision	200.69		2001800

Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS "G" AGRICULTURAL COVENANT

Commissioner Seifert moved to allow an agricultural covenant to be placed on a tract of land in T28N, R1W, Section 9, NE1/4NE1/4, and Section 10, NW1/4NW1/4, as permitted under the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act, 76-3-101 through 76-3-625, MCA. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS "G" AGRICULTURAL COVENANT

Commissioner Seifert moved to allow an agricultural covenant to be placed on a tract of land in T28N, R1W, Section 9, N1/2N1/2NE1/4NW1/4, NW1/4NE1/4, N1/2SW1/4NE1/4, N1/2S1/2SW1/4NE1/4, and Section 10, SE1/4NW1/4, E1/2SW1/4, S1/2S1/2SW1/4SW1/4, as permitted under the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act, 76-3-101 through 76-3-625, MCA. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS "G" AGRICULTURAL COVENANT

Commissioner Seifert moved to allow an agricultural covenant to be placed on a tract of land in T28N, R1W, Section 10, W1/2SE1/4, as permitted under the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act, 76-3-101 through 76-3-625, MCA. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

PREDATORY ANIMAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING APPROVED

Commissioner Morren 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 \$2,045 for protection of sheep and \$9,701 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 Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

**JUNE 24, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Dale Seifert, Commissioner Jim Morren, and Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CONTRACT APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Seifert seconded to approve the County Superintendent of Schools Agreement with Lynn C. Utterback for FY2020-21. Motion carried.

CONTRACTS FOR WEED SPRAYING OF STATE HIGHWAYS FOR FISCAL YEAR 20 APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Seifert seconded to approve a contract from the Montana Department of Transportation Great Falls Division in the amount of \$2,000 and the Havre Division in the amount of \$18,000. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FORGIVENESS OF REPAYMENT OF INTERFUND LOAN ADOPTED

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA  
RESOLUTION #35 -2019/20

AUTHORIZING FORGIVENESS OF REPAYMENT OF INTERFUND LOAN

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has, from time to time, determined it to be in the best interests of the County to authorize loans from one fund to another at a reasonable rate of interest; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the interfund loan (for FY2019-20 funds) from the General Fund to the Port Authority Fund, authorized under Resolution #17-2019/20, be forgiven under the terms of the December 18, 2019 Loan Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pondera County that the Clerk and Recorder effect the forgiveness of repayment of the above-described loan, in the amount of \$12,962.50, principal, and all interest that would have accrued; treating the same as a transfer from the General Fund to the Port Authority Fund.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020 as moved by Commissioner Morren, seconded by Commissioner Seifert, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the full board. Effective on passage and approval.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Thomas A Kuka  
Thomas A Kuka, Chairman

/s/ Dale J Seifert  
Dale J Seifert, Member

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

/s/ Jim Morren  
Jim Morren, Member

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO PONDERA COUNTY BUDGET

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA  
RESOLUTION #36 – 2019/20

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
2917-351015	Victim & Witness Adv Surcharge	\$1,200	\$1,700
Expenditures	Description	Prior Amount	New Amount
2917-103-410370-350	Crime Victim Assistance	\$1,609	\$2,109

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020, as moved by Commissioner Seifert, 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/ Thomas A Kuka  
Thomas A Kuka, Chairman

/s/ Dale J Seifert  
Dale J Seifert, Member

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

/s/ Jim Morren  
Jim Morren, Member

**CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT**

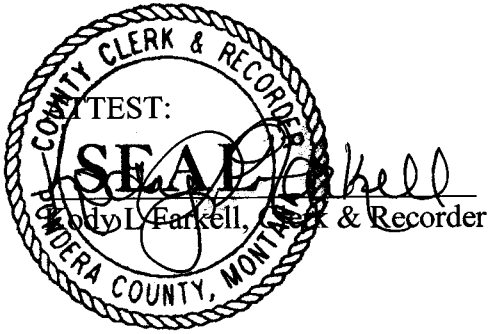
<b><u>FUND</u></b>		
Fund	Fund Description	Amount
1000	GENERAL	44,685.25
2110	ROAD	70,495.43
2130	BRIDGE	25,142.78
2140	WEED	4,240.53
2150	PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL	5,994.50
2170	AIRPORT	14,103.81
2220	LIBRARY	141,632.69
2230	AMBULANCE	271.28
2280	SENIOR CITIZENS	14,790.61
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	6,641.58
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	15,965.50
2371	HEALTH INSURANCE - EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION	930.78
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	357.81
2800	ALCOHOL REHABILITATION	3,480.00
2821	ENHANCED GAS TAX (BARSAR)	5,262.08
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	4,813.15
2850	911 EMERGENCY	9,515.29
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	5,526.01
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	17.93
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	1,029.76
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	70.00
2966	COVID-19 MENTAL HEALTH GRANT	14,010.72
2967	CARES ACT GRANT	293.11
2971	WIC GRANT	138.95
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	468.15
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	141.60
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE (FKA TOBACCO USE PREV)	94.14
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	71.00
4013	ROAD/BRIDGE EQUIP PURCHASE	69,659.00
7920	REFUND FUND	2,477.79
TOTAL CLAIMS		462,321.23
TOTAL PAYROLL		\$ 298,198.25
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS		\$ 760,519.48

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2020.

Pondera County, Montana.

  
Thomas A Kuka, Chairman



334674 CO MINUTES Pages: 7

STATE OF MONTANA PONDERA COUNTY

RECORDED: 07/21/2020 3:40 KOI: CO MINUTES

Kody L Farkell CLERK AND RECORDER

FEE: \$0.00 BY: Heggen - Deputy

TO: FILED