REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
Held in February 2026

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on February 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2026.

FEBRUARY 4, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Road/Bridge Superintendent Frosty DeBoo, Public – Paul Anderberg, Nita Tomsheck with Valier Area Development Corp, Tiffany Christensen with Conrad Library, Cathy Brandvold with Valier Library

Public Comment –
Nita Tomsheck presented a plan for physical fitness clusters to be installed at the Lake Frances campground on a gravel pad. Commissioner Kuka moved to have the Road Department lay gravel for the project. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

CONTRACT WITH SQUARE 9
Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the renewal contract of GlobalSearch C2 Cloud Storage for Square 9, up to 100GB in the amount of $4,193.30. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of server refresh for Pondera County Health Department in the amount of $13,655.99, from Digital Image Systems. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of 12 computers and the Microsoft Office software, shipping and set-up for the computers, in the amount of $25,688.00, from Digital Image Systems. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON DECLARING PROPERTY SURPLUS AND SETTING SALE
PONDERA COUNTY
RESOLUTION #18 - 2025/26
DECLARING PROPERTY SURPLUS AND SETTING SALE

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-8-2211, MCA, Authorization to sell and exchange county property, the Board of Pondera County Commissioners declares the following personal property belonging to the County as surplus property which is not necessary to the conduct of county business or the preservation of its property:

1957 Cat D7 Dozer	2010 Asphalt Zipper Misc tables & chairs
2014 Chevy ½ ton pickup	Ford 2000 mower tractor
1995 Chevy 1 ton w/box hoist	Linde 650 wire feed welder
1998 Chevy ambulance	1989 Ford 9000 dump truck w/pup

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have determined it is in the best interests of the County to sell the item at online public sale by public auction through the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, an ad will run in the Pioneer Press on November February 11 and 18 advertising the auction, which will run from March 2 through March 18.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners:

1) hereby declares the property listed above as surplus property which is not necessary to the conduct of county business or the preservation of its property,

2) directs the property be sold at online public auction through the Public Surplus Auctions; and

ADOPTED this 4th day of February, 2026, 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 COUNTY 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 and Recorder

/s/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

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 #19 – 2025/26
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 2, 2026 Primary Election ballot; and

WHEREAS the Library voted levy passed by voters in 2022 in the amount of $312,868 per year, plus an inflationary factor as allowed by Montana law, which expired in tax year 2025. In the tax year 2025 the levy generated approximately 20.88 mills, $428,817. 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 2026 for a period of eight (8) years, for the purpose of operating and maintaining the libraries.

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees of the Conrad Library and Valier Library met and entered into a written and signed agreement dated May 11, 2024 which outlines the distribution of voted levy funds (see attached) should the levy pass;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners that a ballot issue be placed on the June 2, 2026 ballot in order that the voters may approve or disapprove continuation of the current voted levy for a period of eight (8) 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:

PONDERA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTINUING VOTED TAX LEVY

Shall the Pondera County Commissioners be authorized to levy sufficient additional mills on all taxable property within Pondera County to generate approximately $428,817 (approximately 20.88 mills), plus an inflationary factor allowed by Montana law, beginning with tax year 2026, for eight (8) years for the purpose of funding the operations of the Conrad and Valier Public Libraries?

The fiscal impact on a home having a market value of $100,000 is estimated to be $15.87 each year of the levy; on a home having a market value of $300,000 is estimated to be $47.61 each year of the levy; and on a home having a market value of $600,000 is estimated to be $108.99 each year of the levy. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

Additional Information: In 2022, the voters approved a levy request which expired in 2025. This levy request is a continuation of the 2022 approved request.

FOR continued levy
AGAINST continued levy

Adopted this 4th day of February, 2026 as moved by Commissioner Drishinski, seconded by Commissioner Kuka, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the full 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/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

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

JANUARY COMMISSION MINUTES APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the January 2026 Minutes of the Commission. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of an overhead door for the Conrad Road/Bridge shop in the amount of $4,345.00 from Conrad Building Center. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

FEBRUARY 11, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public – Paul Anderberg, Buck Buchanan

Public Comment-
Buck Buchanan was present with concerns about the Sheriff's Department and the Justice of Peace. Regarding the enforcement of Town of Valier's ordinances.

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Drishinski attended a Landfill meeting on February 10, 2026, discussing cardboard recycling.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY GARY & MARCIA BRYERS
Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve an Encroachment Agreement for Gary & Marcia Bryers on Sam George Road for an approach and culvert. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.
CONTRACT WITH SQUARE 9
Commissioner Kuka moved and Commissioner Drishinski seconded to approve the renewal contract of GlobalSearch C2 Cloud Storage for Square 9, up to 100GB in the amount of $12,618.49. This renewal is for three years and to replace the prior contract. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF RURAL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Rural Fire District Board members are elected to their positions. Montana law provides that if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of positions to be elected, the election administrator may cancel the election. In such case, the county governing body shall declare elected by acclamation each candidate who filed a nominating petition for a position. If a nomination is not made for one or more trustee offices, the county governing body shall appoint one or more trustees as necessary to fill those offices. A trustee taking office pursuant to this subsection serves the trustee term of office as if that trustee had been elected.

Bill Breding and Shawn Vermulm filed a Declaration for Nomination. In accordance with Montana statute, Commissioner Drishinski moved to declare Bill Breding and Shawn Vermulm elected by acclamation, for a term of three years. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF $1,500-APPROVED
Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the purchase of two snowplow edges for the Road/Bridge Department in the amount of $5,898.32, from Northwest Parts and Equipment. Commissioner Drishinski seconded. Motion carried.

FEBRUARY 18, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Clerk & Recorder Kody Farkell, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public – Paul Anderberg

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Drishinski attended the North Central Area Agency on Aging.

CLAIM FOR INDIGENT BURIAL APPROVED FOR PAYMENT
Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve payment of $750 for a burial of indigent resident of the county. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL APPROVED
Health Department Coordinator Amy Shaw requested permission to attend the National Association of County and City Health Officials Conference in Washington D.C. beginning February 23-26, 2026. This is an all-expenses paid scholarship opportunity including travel costs, hotel stay, daily per diam, membership and registration. Commissioner Drishinski moved and Commissioner Kuka seconded to approve the out-of-state travel. Motion carried.

FEBRUARY 25, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:
PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Morren, Commissioner Zane Drishinski, Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tammy Bartsch, Public – Paul Anderberg

MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION OUTSIDE REGULAR MEETING
Commissioner Morren attended the MACO (Montana Association of Counties) in Billings, MT.

LETTER OF COMMITMENT TO NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL
Commissioner Drishinski moved to approve a letter of commitment for the upcoming fiscal year to the Northern Transit Interlocal's coordination plan with a $5,000 commitment. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON ALLOWING BALLOT ISSUE TO LEVY TAXES ON ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE COUNTY OWNED HOSPITAL AND LONG-TERM CARE BUILDING LEASED TO LOGAN HEALTH-CONRAD

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA
RESOLUTION #20 – 2025/26
ALLOWING BALLOT ISSUE TO LEVY TAXES ON ALL PROPERTY OWNERS

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE COUNTY OWNED HOSPITAL AND LONG-TERM CARE BUILDING LEASED TO LOGAN HEALTH-CONRAD

WHEREAS the deadline to submit ballot issue language to the County Election Administrator is March 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS the Hospital voted levy passed by voters in 2014 in the amount of $175,000 per year, plus an inflationary factor as allowed by Montana law, expired in tax year 2024. In the tax year 2024 the levy generated approximately 12.45 mills, $253,341. The Pondera County Commissioners request that the voters of Pondera County be given the opportunity to restart the levy, beginning with tax year 2026 for a period of eight (8) years, for the purpose of funding needed imminent and future infrastructure and capital needs for the county-owned hospital and long-term care building leased to Logan Health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners that a ballot issue be placed on the June 2, 2026 ballot in order that the voters may approve or disapprove the voted levy for a period of eight (8) 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:

COUNTY-OWNED HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME BUILDING MILL LEVY

Shall the Pondera County Board of County Commissioners be authorized to levy sufficient mills, being approximately 12.45, to generate $253,000 plus an inflationary factor allowed by Montana law, for a period of eight (8) years, beginning with tax year 2026, for the purpose of funding needed imminent and future infrastructure and capital needs for the county-owned hospital and long-term care building leased to Logan Health?

The fiscal impact on a home having a market value of $100,000 is estimated to be $9.36 each year of the levy; on a home having a market value of $300,000 is estimated to be $28.09 each year of the levy; and on a home having a market value of $600,000 is estimated to be $64.31 each year of the levy. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

Additional Information: In 2014 the voters approved a levy for the purpose of funding capital equipment and/or building improvements at the county-owned building leased by then-named Pondera Medical Center, which expired in 2024.

FOR additional levy
AGAINST additional levy

Adopted this 25th day of February, 2026 as moved by Commissioner Kuka, seconded by Commissioner Drishinski, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the full board. Effective on passage and approval.

BOARD OF COUNTY 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 and Recorder

/s/ Zane Drishinski
Zane Drishinski, Member

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

FUND

Fund	Fund Description	
1000	GENERAL	132,684.45
2110	ROAD	27,065.82
2130	BRIDGE	96.53
2140	WEED	843.35
2170	AIRPORT	155,013.32
2230	AMBULANCE	229.94
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	6,633.58
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	13,330.23
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	353.37
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	15.61
2850	911 EMERGENCY	1,929.88
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	1,225.00
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	141.86
2894	ST ALLOC FED MINERAL ROY	140.00
2955	CORE SIPP MINI GRANT	4,796.48
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	6,995.63
2962	LOR FOUNDATION GRANT	14.99
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	3,857.20
2965	INNOVATION BEH HEALTH	8,941.69
2971	WIC GRANT	123.51
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	117.76
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	97.41
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE GRANT	108.93
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	2,083.00
2981	COMMUNITY HEALTH GRANT	3,750.00
4009	PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL IMP	7,251.83
4012	GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMP	22435.97
4013	ROAD/BRIDGE EQUIP PURCHSE	18,370.00
7920	REFUND FUND	173,825.00

TOTAL CLAIMS	$592,472.34
TOTAL PAYROLL	$372,069.96
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS	$964,542.30

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on February 28, 2026

Pondera County, Montana.

Jim Morren, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kody L Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

CLERK & RECORDER PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA SEAL