

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

The Board of Pondera County Commissioners met daily in informal session and in scheduled meetings on February 3, 12, 19, and 26, 2020.

**FEBRUARY 5, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

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

RESOLUTION DECLARING PROPERTY SURPLUS AND SETTING SALE

PONDERA COUNTY

RESOLUTION #21 – 2019/20

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:

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Four (4) snow plow blades | Two (2) utility boxes |
| One ( ) one-way plow      | One (1) generator     |

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have determined it is in the best interests of the County to sell the items at surplus auction through Public Surplus.

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) agrees to sell the listed items at surplus auction through the Public Surplus.

ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 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 COMMISSIONERS  
 Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Thomas A Kuka  
 Thomas A Kuka, Chair

/s/ Dale J Seifert  
 Dale J Seifert, Member

ATTEST:

/s/ Jim Morren  
 Jim Morren, Member

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

SHERIFF DEPUTY REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION-APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved to approve the revised job description for a Sheriff Deputy, updating the county benefit contribution from 180 days after hire to the first day of the month following 30 days of hire. Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS TO COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS

Commissioner Seifert moved and Commissioner Morren moved to appoint/reappoint the following to the County Advisory Boards:

Planning– Robert Skorupa (2021)

Tax Appeal – Jamie Brownell (2022)

Building Inspection Contract Board of Inspectors – Ray Stoetzel (2021)

Motion carried.

A complete list of County Advisory Boards and all members is on the County webpage: [www.ponderacountymontana.org](http://www.ponderacountymontana.org) under Government, Board Appointments.

**NO REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2020 AS ALL COMMISSIONERS ATTENDING THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (MACO) MIDWINTER MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

PRESENT: Commissioner Thomas Kuka, Commissioner Dale Seifert, & Commissioner Jim Morren.

TAX ABATEMENTS 1102-1103-APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved to approve the following abatement:

NUMBER	REASON	CANCEL	ADD	PARCEL NO
1102	Allocation settlement	36.41		670000
1103	Allocation settlement	163.53		2034400

Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

JANUARY COMMISSION MINUTES-APPROVED

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

ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION – 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.

William Breeding and Shawn Vermulm each filed a Declaration For Nomination. In accordance with Montana statute, Commissioner Morren moved to declare William Breeding and Shawn Vermulm elected by acclamation, each for a term of three years. Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY 3 RIVERS COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Seifert moved to approve an Encroachment Agreements 3 Rivers Communications for the installing phone cable fibers on Blair Mine Road, Bullhead Road, Maple Road and Kingston Mine Road. Commissioner Morren seconded. Motion carried.

LEASE WITH STATE OF MONTANA-DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE-APPROVED

Commissioner Morren moved and Commissioner Seifert seconded to approve a lease agreement with the State of Montana Department of Justice-Motor Vehicle Division for the County to provide office space within the Treasurer's for the County to conduct driver services business. Motion carried.

LETTER OF COMMITMENT TO NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL-APPROVED

Commissioner Morren 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 and to name Commissioner Seifert as the voting representative on the Board. Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried.

**FEBRUARY 26, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION:**

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

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SATELLITE ELECTION OFFICE ON BLACKFEET RESERVATION IN HEART BUTTE FOR 2020 FEDERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

RESOLUTION #22 – 2019/20  
ESTABLISHING SATELLITE ELECTION OFFICE ON BLACKFEET RESERVATION IN HEART BUTTE FOR THE JUNE 2, 2020 FEDERAL PRIMARY 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 June 2, 2020 Federal Primary Election as follows:

Thursday, May 14, 2020                      10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 26, 2020                      10:00 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 June 2, 2020 Federal Primary Election as follows:

Thursday, May 14, 2020                      10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 26, 2020                      10:00 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 June 2, 2020 Federal Primary Election and adapted, if necessary, prior to setting days and hours for future elections.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020 as moved by Commissioner Morren, seconded by Commissioner Seifert, and passed on a 2-0 vote of the board. Effective upon passage and approval.

PONDERA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Pondera County, Montana

/s/ Thomas A Kuka  
Thomas A Kuka, Chairman

/s/ Dale J Seifert  
Dale J Seifert, Member

ATTEST:

Absent  
Jim Morren, Member

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

PROPOSAL FOR LITIGATION GUARANTEES TO THE COUNTY-ACCEPTED

The Clerk and Recorder had requested proposals for litigation guarantee services for delinquent tax parcels being pursued by the County. One proposal was received. Commissioner Seifert moved to accept the bid proposal received from First American Title Company (Conrad office) in the amount \$200 per parcel, providing the tax delinquency is less than \$16,000 per parcel. A parcel with taxes delinquency over

\$16,000 will be charged out at the filed rate for title insurance. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

**RESIGNATION OF MARY ANN RIES AS COUNTY ATTORNEY/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE AUGUST 25, 2020 ACCEPTED**

Commissioner Seifert moved to accept the resignation of Mary Ann Ries as County Attorney/Public Administrator, effective August 25, 2020. Commissioner Kuka seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioners will be required to appoint a new County Attorney/Public Administrator to serve August 26, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

**CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT**

<b><u>FUND</u></b>		
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1000	GENERAL	21,573.24
2110	ROAD	27,554.79
2130	BRIDGE	5,545.68
2140	WEED	2,557.72
2160	COUNTY FAIR	500.00
2170	AIRPORT	10,853.22
2230	AMBULANCE	248.34
2235	COUNTY HOSPITAL	94,861.17
2290	EXTENSION SERVICE	5,614.87
2300	PUBLIC SAFETY (LAW ENFORCEMENT)	13,127.00
2371	HEALTH INSURANCE - EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION	1,597.76
2393	RECORDS PRESERVATION	44.00
2401	BRADY LIGHTS MAINTENANCE	364.38
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	13.15
2850	911 EMERGENCY	4,666.34
2860	LAND USE PLANNING	382.50
2866	NORTHERN TRANSIT INTERLOCAL	257.40
2958	EP (DES) GRANTS	380.08
2963	ORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	70.00
2971	WIC GRANT	194.51
2973	MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	84.15
2976	IMMUNIZATION ACTION GRANT	195.50
2978	CHRONIC DISEASE (FKA TOBACCO USE PREV)	270.65
2980	HEALTH CARE FOUND. GRANT	71.00
4013	ROAD/BRIDGE EQUIP PURCHASE	3,157.84
7920	REFUND FUND	145.44
TOTAL CLAIMS		194,330.73
TOTAL PAYROLL		\$ 253,052.85
TOTAL CLAIMS AND PAYROLL FUNDS		\$ 447,383.58

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on February 29, 2020

Pondera County, Montana.

  
Thomas A Kuka, Chairman

ATTEST:

**February 2020**

