

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

September 25th, 2026

Prairie County Court House Commissioners Room

217 West Park St Terry, MT 59349

www.prairiecounty.org

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Todd Devlin, Christine Keltner and Dennis Teske met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. In attendance Administrative Assistant Harry McNall.

9:00 a.m. Call to order, pledge of allegiance. Public Comment.

9:30 a.m. Road Supervisor Todd Henry updated the commission on the road department. Explained there are issues in numerus spots in the county, and that his crew have been grading this week out cabin creek area, cherry creek rd, with a list of other projects that need completed.

Owen Devlin as part of the Roping Club, ask if the road department could look at the cattle guard at the fairgrounds to keep cattle from getting out. This is something needs done before next season, maybe change it out or clean?

10:00 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from the September 2nd, 2026, commissioners meeting.

10:13 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 2nd, 2026, commissioner meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:15 a.m. Commissioner Devlin read the minutes from the Budget Hearing on September 9th, 2026.

10:20 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the minutes from the Budget Hearing on September 9th, 2026, as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:30 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson provided Payroll for the commissioners to sign and review.

Prairie County Voucher # 1034 \$20,357.60

Prairie County Voucher # 1037 \$4,923.00

Prairie County Voucher # 1010 \$11,518.16

Prairie County Voucher # 3 \$9,421.87

Prairie County Voucher # 1036 \$19,415.38

Prairie County Voucher # 1035 \$2,609.00

Prairie County Voucher # 1033 \$73,690.97

Prairie County Voucher # 1038 \$28,597.43

Prairie County Voucher # 1011 \$1,129.69

Commissioners reviewed and signed claims

Prairie County Voucher # 1039 \$18,884.29

Prairie County Voucher # 1040 \$1,833.40

Prairie County Voucher # 1032 \$7,825.40

Journal Adjustments because of the audit

Voucher # 103, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, and 537.

11:17 a.m. Commissioners read and signed Resolution 27-9 First Reading of Amendment of Final Budget for FY 2025/2026 to account for unanticipated revenue and expense in bridge fund (2130), setting a public hearing for October 7th, 2026.

11:23 a.m. Commissioners reviewed expenditure sheets

11:40 a.m. DES John Pisk provided the commissioners with quotes from three companies for new pickups for his department, to be paid for through a grant. The three were Deluxe Motors, Inc. Miles City, Bison Ford, Great Falls, Chevy/GMC, and Glendive. There were only two quotes provided after contacting several dealerships. John recommends getting the 2027 Ford F350.

11:57 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the Bison Ford of Great Falls Montana for \$72,725.20 for a 2027 Ford F-350 W3D 4x4 Crew Cab DRW Lariat-176" WB, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:14 p.m. Commissioners discussed and reviewed the Cushing Terrell Architectural Firm Professional Services Contract. The commissioners spoke with County Attorney Dan Rice via phone, and he said it was standard form.

1:21 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to accept the Cushing Terrell Architectural Firm Professional Services Contract for the fairgrounds building, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

2:00 p.m. Garrett Lapp County Treasurer provided the commissioner with cash reconciliation report and cash report. Reviewed a DOR Property Value Adjustment for FY2026.

2:16 p.m. Resolution 27-10 creating a checking account for allegiance benefit claims.

2:18 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept Resolution 27-10 creating a checking account for allegiance benefit claims, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

2:33 p.m. Discussion on what to do with the extra interest generated by LATCF account. suggestion is to distribute it out among all accounts.

2:54 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to use the treasure report that stays the same for this month and work on a plan for the interest, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment:

Shane Eaton could not make it to the first road meeting, the resolution 27-2; does the whole county get a vote? Commissioner Devlin said "no" all residents outside of the town of Terry. Shane also asks about the home value estimates, statue said 100,000, 300,000 and 600,000 and resolution doesn't show that. Clerk said there was an update to the resolution. Shane questioned if the form of the ballot confirms the content of the levy.

Commissioner Devlin explained that none of the commission likes asking for more tax, because we are a conservative group. His position is to use interest off of certain funds to provide services on a long-term basis or reduce what's needed for taxes.

Commissioner Keltner explained that some of the money is used to repair bridges etc.

Mary Elizebeth Grue suggested that there should be a recruitment bonus, and a long-term contract as a method.

Shane Eaton concerning funding of the road department, shouldn't 15-20% of the PILT go to the road department. Commissioner Devlin explained none of PILT but, that Bank Head Jones money goes to the road department each year as well as Entitlement funds.

Shane Eaton question about MACo and who all is going to the meeting, two commissioners and administrative assistant.

3:30 p.m. Discussion on County Attorney and filling vacancy after 12/31/2026. Sheriff Lewis commented about his view on the county attorney, and that the county doesn't have a resident attorney. There is a trial going on and losing the attorney in the middle of the trial is not good. The county attorney is highly used in the sheriff's department.

Shane Eaton: would the attorney stay on the case either way?

Sheriff Lewis explained that the AG office is part of the prosecutors, and if Dan Rice is no longer a county attorney, he can only testify in the case.

Shane ask that he listen to the county attorney budget hearing on July 8th, 2026. Most of the surrounding counties pay 50% time for a county attorney, and we pay a 3/4th time? Did you look at other counties? Why are we at a higher rate than other counties?

Discussion on what other counties have included, paralegals, milage, room board etc?

Shane ask the question about paralegals for general questions, and retainer attorney for more legal requirements.

Discussion on what options may be available for attorney and attorney/paralegal combinations. Legal advice would need to come from an attorney rather than a paralegal.

Glenda Uland ask that the commission consider looking for other candidates.

Journal Adjustment voucher # 104,

Prairie County Voucher # 1041 \$255.39

4:30 p.m. Dwight Tague county fire warden, spoke to the commissioners about the amount of fuel and equipment costs associated with the recent fire activity.

Commissioners told Dwight to have those involved in the fire to submit claims for fuel etc by October 1, 2026.

4:55 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

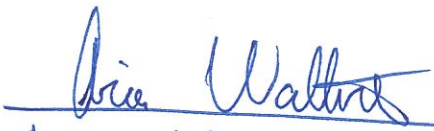
Signed this 14th day of October 2026



Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST: _____

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder

by: 
Aria Walters, Deputy Clerk & Recorder