Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

September 3rd, 2025

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 1:00 p.m. In attendance Administrative Assistant Harry McNall.

1:00 p.m. Pledge of allegiance and call to order.

1:05 p.m. Commissioner Devlin read the minutes from the August 27th, 2025, commissioners meeting.

1:25 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 27th, 2025, commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

1:30 p.m. Public Hearing Resolution 26-6 Budget Amendment FY25.

1:38 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept "Resolution 26-6 A Resolution Pursuant to 7-6-4006 of the Montana Code Annotated, Authorizing Amendment of Final Budget for FY 2024/2025 to Account for Unanticipated Revenue and Expense" seconded by Commissioner Teske, Open to discussion, "all in favor" motion passed.

2:00 p.m. Road Supervisor Todd Henry joined the meeting. Ask about how his budget is looking? It will be finalized this afternoon. Supervisor Henry explained some of the challenges of having just one gravel pit to pull gravel out of, took 4 days to gravel 3 miles. Supervisor Henry ask about taking all three of his guys to training in Sidney Mt, on the 16th and 17th of September. Commissioners agreed that it would be good training to do.

2:07 a.m. Administrative Assistant Harry McNall explained that road policy discussion is not on the agenda, and no decisions should be made. Commissioners reviewed the Sales and Service pricing for the road department. Supervisor Henry explained the reasons many prices will need to be changed within the Sales and Service document. Supervisor Henry gave the commissioners his thoughts on what changes should be considered within the Road Policy. He suggested changing the policy under approaches from $150 to "Cost and Materials". The commissioners scheduled a public meeting on September 30th, 2025.

Shane Eaton ask Road Supervisor Todd Henry about the approach permits. They are not lawful permits, that were received from NextEra. Shane suggests making a motion to deny all.

Commissioner Teske spent 2 days and went to all the proposed approaches personally.

Rob Raukauf commented about private property decisions effecting neighboring property.

Shane Eaton ask Todd Henry about the approach application, did the county get any more details? Todd Henry explained everything he received is in those applications.

Todd Tibbitts; are survey markers allowed under these road easements. Commissioner Devlin's interpretation of state statute allows them to survey within the county easement. Scott Eaton explained some of the state statutes he had read and requirements for notification. MCA 70-16-111 is the code Scott was referencing.

Joel Basta, concerning the permits for approaches; are going to be denied?

Todd Tibbitts; county taxpayers should not be on the hook for engineering costs associated with these permits.

Dave Castine: I heard they want to widen turns. Road Supervisor Todd Henry we don't have the authority to allow them to widen the turns outside of the right-a-way.

Joylene Millwright can you state in the letter that you abstain from decisions concerning the permits.

Arron Martinson the applications show spots to sign as approved or disapproved.

Ron Reukauf decisions are being put off over and over.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment

Shane Eaton provided the commissioners with a letter from the United States Department of Commerce investigations concerning wind turbines. The federal government is looking into national security issues. He suggests the county follow the current administration and put in interim zoning to stop the process. Don't sign permits or agreements.

Rob Reukauf what happened with the petition that was turned in? Commissioners: they are being certified and verified currently. Rob Reukauf why will the commission not enact interim zoning, you don't want to, won't make the decision? Why?

Dave Castine; there was news reporting that the administration is talking about taking them down in certain areas.

Reene Pirtz; She explained the steps taken to get a feel of how the county citizens feel about turbines, as well as testimony on the subject against these industrial development plans. She provided many examples of current issues going on within the county, state and federal level concerning industrial development. She asks the commissioners to reconsider interim zoning.

Joylynn Millwright; She explained that the dark sky's in our area are the best in Montana, to view the sky, due to no light interference within the area. The wind turbines will dilute the view of the sky due to lights.

Todd Tibbitts: he listed the reasons many people live within this area. They have talked about interim zoning many times over the last year. The citizens are all but demanding that you pass interim zoning. Step out and do what your constituents want done and pass it.

Angela G.; There is a beauty that is unique to Eastern Montana, let's not mess it up.

Commissioner Devlin made a point to say that Prairie County has not signed any documents or agreements with NextEra.

Rick Holden in Dawson County the Land Planning Board just finished 6 months of testimony. The Dawson County Planning Board put together regulations concerning wind turbines. NextEra only offered that they will provide some amount of money from this project. They hired a land appraisal company. They explained what would happen when wind turbines are built would decrease the value of neighboring land. They had no information showing land increasing in value in Montana near wind turbines. He gave some examples of values, taxes and concerns about effects by the wind turbines and other examples of decommissioning in other industries.

Dave Kasten; decommission will cost money, and will there really be money for that?

Lisa Everett; she is a participating landowner, and she supports and fights for this project. Many don't show up due to the tone of voice used and other issues. The survey showed 70% negative view of those who filled it out, not those who live in Prairie County. She explained her views on the positive of these wind projects, as well as positive projects that have been around for 20 years.

Scott Eaton over the last 8 years, there has been studies showing the negative effects on wind turbines. They are finding all kinds of problems with turbines all across the world.

3:30 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided the commissioners with claims to review and sign.

Claim FY25

Prairie County Voucher # 1161 $4,000.00

Claims FY26

Prairie County Voucher # 1027 $194.48

Prairie County Voucher # 1025 $31,007.62

Prairie County Voucher # 1026 $55,423.55

Commissioners reviewed 7 claims provided for the recent "Bump & Run" activities during the County Fair.

FY 26 Journal Adjustments # 59

Fy 25 Budget Adjustments # 554, 4

Commissioners reviewed the following void check reports: Voided Check 48910 Voucher 1017, Voided Check 48940 & 48939 Voucher 1018, Voided Check 48894 Voucher 1017.

Commissioners will adjourn the meeting until 5 p.m.

5:00 p.m. The commissioner readjourned for Final Budget Hearing FY25/26.

Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson joined the meeting to go over budget with the commissioners. She explained to the commissioners the process with the state worksheets for filling in the budget and finalizing the budget numbers.

5:20 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the Budget Message for FY25/26, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

5:25 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to sign and accept the Budget Certification for FY25/26, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, Open to discussion, public comment, "all in favor" motion passed.

5:25 p.m. Commissioners reviewed Resolution 26-2 the Permissive Medical Levy.

Shane Eaton would like to see a pie chart in the future showing the change in property tax over time by category.

5:35 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept Resolution 26-2 "A Resolution Pursuant to 2-9-212 of the Montana Code Annotated, Authorizing a Permissive Medical Levy for FY 2025/2026 to the fund Group health Insurance Premium Contributions by the County" , seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

5:37 p.m. Commissioners reviewed Resolution 26-3 Permissive Sheriff's Retirement Levy.

5:40 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept Resolution 26-3 "A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO MCA 19-7-404 AUTHORIZING A PERMISSIVE SHERIFF'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM CONTRIBUTION LEVY FOR FY 2025-2026.", seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

5:43 p.m. Commissioners reviewed Resolution 26-4 Final Budget Resolution.

5:56 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept Resolution 26-4 "A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR PRAIRIE COUNTY, MONTANA, ADOPTING THE FINAL OPERATING BUDGET AND SETTING APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026" seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

6:01 p.m. Commissioners reviewed PRAIRIE COUNTY RESOLUTION 26-5 ADOPTING All COUNTY LEVIES FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

6:05 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept "PRAIRIE COUNTY RESOLUTION 26-5 ADOPTING All COUNTY LEVIES FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026," seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

6:10 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

Signed this 30th day of September 2025

Todd Devlin 9/30/25 ATTEST: Shari L Robertson

Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder

Aria Walters

Aria Walters, Deputy Clerk : Recorder