Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

January 7th, 2026

Prairie County Court House Court 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. Pledge of allegiance and call to order. Public Comment. Sheriff Lewis joined the meeting.

There was a short discussion on the new agenda and procedures, and public comment.

Sheriff Lewis, the office had1386 calls for service in 2025. It is anything that they are called to do. 616 calls were traffic actions, 781 other calls that cover all other activities. Sheriff Lewis went over all the major call outs for the year 2025. They had a total of 87 court cases for the year.

Aaron Martinson I visited with Commissioner Teske and Keltner about road issues and ask for an update. Commissioner Keltner gave an update. Arron ask if there is any accountability in the road department? You need to figure out how to resolve the issues.

Reene Pirtz ask about the new agenda and not having public comment at 3 p.m. if that is new and permanent? Not allowing phone calls would be challenging to many folks. You should consider how to be more accessible.

9:28 a.m. Road Supervisor Todd Henry gave an update to the commissioners. The new employee started yesterday, and Adam was out grading Cabin Creek area. He gave an update on road conditions and some of the work that needs to be done. Commissioner Teske ask that Supervisor Henry bring in work logs, to have a conversation about planning work etc. He also explained some of the issues he has with limited employees, large amounts of road work that need done, and his own frustrations about not being able to complete the work. The conversation moved to how to get more people to apply for the positions.

Commissioner Devlin explained the last levy for the county was to raise more money for the road department. Is the need for more money still an issue? The board was all in agreement at that time. Commissioner Teske said that money is part of the issue, but there could be other issues along with the money issue.

Public comment: Arron Martinson, in Sidney they tried to pass a levy to crush gravel for the roads, it failed and the next year the county graveled 1 mile of road out of town, and the next time the levy came up it passed. It passed because of production. There are other options.

Supervisor Henry ask for the commission to consider changing payroll to bi-weekly instead of monthly, to try to retain employees.

10:00 a.m. The audio recording stopped by itself. It restarted at 10:03 a.m.

10:15 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from the December 30th, 2025, commissioners meeting.

10:25 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 30th, 2025, commissioner meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor' motion passed.

10:26 a.m. Commissioner Teske explained he followed up on snow removal. He also brought to attention that there was a renewal for water rights through the conservation district that are due this year.

Delite Dukart with Watts Insurance to discuss MACo Insurance Coverages updates and changes. The biggest change is the cost to replace a building, so overall coverage went up for all buildings the county covers. They discussed building coverages, appraised values, and actual covered values. There could be a need to reduce the coverage of vehicles, depending on the current insured values.

10:55 a.m. Doug Rein with the TV Board discussed that all he could find is that there was no easement on the building, but there was an easement from 1957 on the property the T.V. Tower is on. Jeannie Rosseland joined the meeting to discuss easements on the property. The discussion moved on to leasing the building on the property for the TV Board. Dan Rice County Attorney discussed the current status, and what terms would be negotiated. Dan reviewed paperwork and requested further information on land transfers and sales concerning the land in question.

11:28 a.m. Prairie County Economic Development Council Lance Kalfell provided an update on the project. They got a grant to build the pavilion at 4-corners. They are working on getting a grant to extend the bases of that project and also asking for a letter of support from the county commissioners. He explained to the commission that there would be approximately 26 trails, some along county roads. He is asking the commission for permission to put up signs within the county right-a-way. We currently have MOU with BLM to put signs up on their property. Russel Schwartz spoke about what programs are tied into the local program, the Prairie Trail System is only in Prairie County, and the Badlands to Badlands Trail System starts in Medora North Dakota, and will hopefully end at the Powder River.

Lance Kalfell also had a comment on a possible wilderness area; to remove the wilderness study area that is currently in the county and he provided the commission with some details to consider.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided the commissioners with claims.

Prairie County Voucher # 1082 $15,608.55

Prairie County Voucher # 1081 $16,635.71

Commissioner Devlin announced next meeting January 21st, 2026, and a vacancy on the land planning board.

Public Comment:

Todd Tibbetts: I find it troubling that this was my position on the Land Planning Board, and I didn't see anything in the minutes that says I was removed. Are people being seated according to statue?

Aaron Martinson; In November I remember commissioner Keltner asking Todd Tibbets if he wanted to stay on the board, and he said, "Yes". Who made the decision to remove him?

Commissioner Devlin said he had some responsibility for the decision.

There was a back and forth between Commissioner Devlin and Arron Martinson about what processes were followed for the Land Planning Board appointment/removal.

Todd Tibbetts and Commissioner Devlin had a discussion about what has been said and done currently and in the past concerning different topics.

Todd Tibbets said that on November of 2024, NextEra was a gold member of MACo, and you (Commissioner Devlin) said it was on the website as an error. Then there was a twitter post from an annual MACo Meeting with NextEra in September 2024? That showed them as a gold member.

Commissioner Devlin said that Commissioner Teske could have gone up and look at the books. Commissioner Teske said he had ask if they would come here and show the books.

Todd Tibbets: explained another example that he felt was not right, about something said about Shane Eaton and the apology that Commissioner Devlin gave.

Renee Pirtz: Other counties do roll-overs for County Boards.

Shane Eaton: Commissioner Devlin said that if they get 60% it would be over (concerning the district). Todd Tibbetts was put on the board by this commission, and you Commissioner Devlin are at the point of professional misconduct.

Commissioner Teske in January of 2023, and we made a vote for you to be chairman for 2 years and we didn't have a vote for chairman in 2025. There is something wrong with this commission.

Commissioner Devlin: Todd Tibbets you made a post on a public forum about moving markings on the ground to give NextEra bad data. Todd Tibbets, that is true, but I posted it as Citizen Todd Tibbets not as a Land Planning Board Member.

There was a conversation with Commissioner Teske and Devlin over a threating conversation. Commissioner Teske explained there were no threating conversations.

Renee Pirtz explained she believes there are many misconducts going on.

Shane Eaton: how many openings are there on the Land Planning Board?

Commissioner Devlin and Keltner explained that letters have been sent.

Aaron Martinson played back audio from previous meeting, that showed there was no voting. Commissioner Devlin said, "I believe that was the consensus or someone would have objected".

Commissioner Devlin said, "what does the board think?" Commissioner Teske there are 5 board members in my view, or we throw out all members and start over.

Commissioner Keltner said we should put it on the next agenda for a vote on all the board appointments, Commissioner Devlin said I am seconding. Commissioner Teske said that in the past there have been no votes. Any more discussion? All in favor, Commissioner Devlin and Keltner, all opposed Commissioner Teske.

2:40 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

Signed this 21st day of January 2026

Todd Devlin

Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST: Shari Robertson

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder