Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

August 5th, 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.

9:06 a.m. Road Supervisor Todd Henry ask about road department budget. The cattle guard work is completed, and the next job is sugar holes. Went over the plan for mowing along roadways before winter.

9:30 a.m. Discussion on 50 mil levy proposal. There will be informational meetings in Fallon and Terry.

9:47 a.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to put the levy to the voters for 50 mills for Road Department, seconded by Commissioner Teske, open to discussion "all in favor" motion passed.

10:00 a.m. Jeff Keys Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), via google meetings discussed the bid opening, and that it had been changed to August 6th, 2026. Updated about the bid acceptance and approval process.

10:30 a.m. Discussion on Last Best Place Zoning District financial and regulatory impacts to taxpayers and adjoining landowners. Members of the Last Best Place Zoning Commission and members of the public joined the meeting.

Rolane Christopherson: explained that there is a line in the regulations that say, "all of Prairie County", needs to be removed, there should be a report on financial impact of lost revenue, who pays for surveying when needed, etc. She cited MCA 76-2-102 explains where funding should come from.

The Commission for the District will enforce regulations, and taxpayers should not have to pay for the district's operations. Who's going to pay or who is going to be the compliance officer? Is it strictly development?

Shane Eaton explained that there are many exemptions including agriculture, it is mainly height and setback.

Commissioner Devlin explained that taxable value is centrally assess. Explained and gave an example of what wind turbine property taxes would have affected overall mills for the county.

Commissioner Teske explained he went to a McCone County commissioner meeting concerning wind turbines, and that stopping this project was not just our county but all the counties around us.

Shane Eaton: Financial impacts, the zoning commission has no cost because it is volunteer. If something is built within the district, costs would stay within the district.

Discussion about what caused the wind turbine project from going forward which included federal regulations, cost of electricity and zoning concerns.

Rolane Christopherson ask about who pays for improvements within that district, bridges, roads, etc?

Discussion on personal income gain and property tax income loss due to the removal of the wind project.

11:13 a.m. Commissioner Teske discussed that there would be a thank you in the newspaper. Mary Elizabeth Grue worked hard to raise over $33,000 for the 250th celebration for our county, to help bring the county together for this event. The ask is if the county will fund the newspaper ad "thank you".

11:20 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to pay for the newspaper ads up to $1000, and seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided claims for the commission to review and sign.

Prairie County Voucher # 1014 $134,701.44

Prairie County Voucher # 1015 $9,581.49

Journal Adjustment # 33

1:33 p.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from July 26th, 2026, commissioner's meeting.

1:41 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 26th, 2026, commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

2:00 p.m. Commissioner Teske left the meeting to spend time with family.

2:07 p.m. Election Clerk Aria Walters spoke to the commissioners about uncontested local races, so they don't appear on the ballot for the general election. It was discussed and agreed that the general election should have the names of the candidates on the ballot for all positions even if uncontested, so people know who ran for what positions.

2:40 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to approve Resolution 27-2 Approving the submittal of a mill levy issue to the voters of Prairie County to assist in funding the Prairie County Road Department, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

3:00 p.m. Public comment, no public comment.

3:30 p.m. Discussion on TV Board levy, and how to go forward. Discussions with Department of Revenue need to happen, and determination of area of coverage. It's important to make sure that only those who can get the service pay the levy. It would be $15 per household per year.

4:00 p.m. Commissioners reviewed the Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP). Commissioners signed the grant information for the Milwaukee Bridge TSEP.

4:30 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

Signed this 19th day of August 2026

Todd Devlin

Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST: Shari Robertson

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder