

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, in the Carter County Commission Board Meeting Room of the Carter County Courthouse at 214 Park Street in Ekalaka, Montana. Rod Tauck, Chairman, Pam Castleberry, Vice Chairman and Dan Dinstel, member were present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Public comment: Ekalaka Volunteer Fire Department Chief Micheal Ashbrook joined the meeting to speak about the agreement for the storage of the ambulances in the fire hall. He stated that there is no 99-year lease between Ekalaka Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) and the Ekalaka EMT's are not interested in a long-term lease to store the ambulances.

Deputy Clerk and Recorder / EMT Dana Eshelman joined the meeting

The commission stated that the agreement should be between the EVFD and the county since the ambulances are owned by the county and leased to Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association.

Interview for Senior Coordinator temporary part-time position with Stacey Ashbrook and Senior Coordinator Tricia Lovec joined the meeting. Commissioner Castleberry moved to accept the application and welcome Stacey Ashbrook as the temporary part-time Senior Coordinator, Food Bank and Transportation Director for 16 hours a week. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion and included the amendment pay for the position will be \$18.00/ per hour. There was no public comment and the motion carried. Stacey and Tricia left the meeting.

Superintendent of Schools Tracey Walker joined the meeting to present the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year School Budget. The commissioners reviewed the budget and requested last year's mills to compare to this year's mills. Tracey will provide the mills by email. Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the school budget for 2026-2027. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. Tracey left the meeting.

Work from home request from Public Health Manager Stefanie Harrington virtual meeting with Michelle of Westaff Human Resources. Stefanie requested to close the meeting. Chairman Tauck closed the meeting to the public at 11:00 am and opened the session at 12:00 pm. Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve telework for two (2) full weeks at 40 hours per week and request that Michelle provide the letter to Stefanie granting this. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:03 pm and was called to order at 1:05 pm with commissioners Tauck, Castleberry, and Dinstel and county attorney Corbit Harrington.

The commissioners placed a call to Carter County Public Health Officer / Health Nurse Kristie Nelson about the draft copy of the WIC task order for Fiscal Year 26-27. The commission and Attorney Harrington reviewed and made suggested edits to the WIC contract.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the consent agenda including the building lease agreement with Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association, permission for the Ekalaka EMT's to use the old hospital building for a haunted house with the stipulation that they provide event insurance. The commission will sign and approve a complete WIC task order when a revised complete task order is received from The Department of Health and Human Services (DPPHS). The commission approved the allocation of state alcohol funds for 2027 fiscal year to Another chance Recover at 75% and Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center at 25%. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 pm. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

Rod Tauck 10-7-26

Rod Tauck Chairman

Attest:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board