

Commission Proceedings
06/30/2026

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 30, 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: Commissioner Dinstel spoke to last week's conversation comparing the predator control program in Powder River County with Carter County. The programs are similar.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$342,219.15 and claims in the amount of \$365,333.71. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Salary Compensation Board: Sheriff Neil Kittelmann, Clerk of District Court / Superintendent of Schools Tracey Walker, Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright, Steve Summers, Melanie Kimpton, Deputy Treasurer Cecile Smith-Kuehn, Attorney Corbit Harrington and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Dana Eshelman. Adam Courtney joined by phone. There was an overview of the purpose of the Salary Compensation Board, and the salary comparison of comparable counties by total area, as well as by population. Adam Courtney made a motion for a 2% increase. Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding the cost of living in Carter County compared to more populated area including the cost of housing and land. Corbit stated that cost of living doesn't factor in the cost of housing and property and Montana Association of Counties cost of living is listed at 2%-2.8%. Chairman Tauck asked for a vote. The vote was 6 for and 3 against. Chairman Tauck abstained from voting. The motion carried.

The meeting broke from lunch at 11:53 am and was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Virtual meeting with Hunter Spring of Stahly Engineering other guests, including Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright. Hunter requested the commissioner's permission for change orders requested by the builders R & R Taylor. Change order 1: Insulation upgrade to spray insulation that would add \$10,000 to the cost of the building. Change order 2: increase apron thickness along the outside of the building. The commission do not wish to add spray foam to the building but would like to increase the concrete apron from 4" to 6". The completion date for the Boyes shop is set to be August 16, 2026. The meeting with Hunter ended and the guests left the meeting.

The commissioners placed a call to David Sandborn of Granite Peak Environmental to discuss addendum #2 in the contract for the abatement of the old hospital. The commissioners want to leave all of the remaining items in the building. David will have his office send an email to confirm the answer to addendum #2. The call ended with David.

Commissioner Castleberry requested that Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright find measurements for the sidewalk in front of the courthouse so that the commission can request for bids on the replacement of the sidewalk.

Judy reported to the commission that the auditors have informed her that the audit is not complete and will not be done before the deadline of June 30, 2026.

Commissioners work session: Guests included Public Health Officer / nurse Kirstie Nelson and Public Health manager Stefanie Harrington as well as Attorney Harrington and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright. Kirstie provided a letter from her requesting to hire the permanent part-time health nurse at \$45 per hour. The interview for the position is set for July 22, 2026. Darrell Messersmith joined the meeting where

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there was discussion regarding the hiring of the Public Health Nurse for the Public Health Department that would also work for Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association (DMHA) as a sperate employee for both DMHA and Carter County Public Health. Darrell provided an update on the energy audit that took place at DMHA several months ago, the hospital interior repair from the water intrusion and the renewal of the building lease agreement between Dahl Memorial and Carter County. The guests left the meeting.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to accept the commissioner's proceedings for June 24, 2026. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve the appointment of Vernalea Kittelmann to the Council on Aging. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to sign the predator control contracts with Chad Harrington and Robbie Fix for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

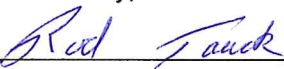
Wanda McInerney joined the meeting to request that commissioners and the community work together to provide a baseball field for the youth in the community. She requested the county provide land for a baseball field. There was discussion regarding the old airport property that is owned by the county, and several privately owned properties. The commission suggested that Wanda look into forming a 501c group and the amount a land would be needed for the field as well as parking. The Commission invited Wanda back to discuss a baseball field whenever she wants to schedule a time on the commissioners' agenda. Wanda left the meeting.

The commissioners returning a call to Alexandria Amonette who requested support for a letter for changes in the energy policy and permitting reform. The commission agreed to review the letters at an upcoming meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

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Rod Tauck Chairman

Attest: _____


Clerk of the Board