

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 16, 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 by Clerk of District Court / Superintendent of School stepped into the meeting to pass on the request from Nixons to place a speed limit on the Ridge Road. The commission agreed to talk to Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp about the speed limit signs. Tracey left the meeting. Carter County Extension Administrative Assistant Brandi Johnstone joined the meeting with comments on the cleaning at the event center, and what the expectations are of the renters. Brandi left the meeting.

Fair Board Members Seth Whitney and Cam LaBree joined the meeting and provided the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget that was approved by the Fair Board with no changes at their last meeting. Seth and Cam requested permission for tree removal and trimming at the fairgrounds. Commissioners approved with the understanding that the contractor will show proof of independent contractor's license and insurance. There was discussion regarding water pressure at the wash racks. The commission suggested checking with the city requesting permission to use the hydrant across the road to supply the wash racks. The new livestock barn is still in the discussion stages where the Fair board is looking at including updated wash rack area and bathrooms. Seth and Cam left the meeting.

Virtual meeting with Kristen Hileman and Karlyn Soriano of Granite Peak Environmental and Karley Lacock from Eastern Montana Brownfields Coalition/ Great Northern Development Corporation for bid review and reward or rebid of the old hospital abatement and demo. The bids were higher than the Commissioners anticipated. If the bids were rejected the loan and subgrant would remain the same but would be rebid at a cost from Granite Peak Environmental. Karly discussed the funding process through the loan and grant currently in place moving into the next phase of the project. The commissioners will provide a final decision on awarding the bid or rejecting all bids at the July 22, 2026 commissioners meeting. The virtual meeting ended at 11 am.

Carter County Treasurer Jesi Pierson presented the following year end reports: R100 receipt summary, Tx 130A Tax distribution by fund, L100XF Receipt Detail by fund, MV120 Motor vehicle finance report, L160 Cash report by fund, L100 Journal vouchers, quarterly securities and investments and quarterly transfers list and L160Z Annual cash report, and annual investment earnings report. Commissioner Dinstel moved to sign investments and quarterly reports through June 2026. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The commission received a call from Alexandria Amonette requesting a letter of support for energy permitting reform. The commission decided not to support the support the reform as it is currently stated. The call with Alexandria ended.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:05 pm and was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Bid opening for a belly dump trailer, 3 road graders and gravel crushing at the Brownfield gravel pit. Guests include Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp, Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright, Carter County Attorney Corbit Harrington, Dana Brentlinger, RDO Equipment, Dalton Kelley, RDO Equipment and Tom Hodgson, Westlie Truck Center.

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Belly Dump Trailer:

Butler Cat Trail King	\$63,587.21	less trade in \$22,500	total bid \$41,087.21
RDO Equipment	\$63,943.81	less trade in \$25,000	total bid \$38,943.81

Westlie Truck Center	\$58,813.70	less trade in \$20,000.	Total bid \$38,836.98
Floyd's trailer 1)	\$59,290.00	less trade in \$20,000.	Total bid \$39,290.00
trailer 2)	\$62,290.00	less trade in \$20,000.	Total bid \$42,290.00 with extra's

Three (3) Road Graders:

RDO Equipment	\$2,214,447.00	less trade ins \$100,000.	Total bid \$1,089,954.86
T & E Co. Option 1)	\$1,398,643.68	less trade ins \$87,000.	Total bid \$1,311,643.68 Little Falls wing
Option 2)	\$1,320,353.94	less trade ins \$87,000.	Total bid \$1,407,353.94 CAT Wing

Brownfield gravel Pit Crushing 80,000 ton to be crushed

DTS Crushing \$15.00 per ton

Wagner Reclamation \$7.50 per ton

Commissioner Castleberry moved to accept the bid of \$38,836.98 from Westlie Truck Center for a 2027 Manac belly dump trailer. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to accept the bid or \$1,089,954.86 from RDO Equipment Co, for three (3)2026 John Deere Little Falls road graders. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Carl recommends rejecting all bids for the gravel crushing and renting or leasing a crusher, cone and stacker so that the county road crew can crush the gravel. Carl will provide quotes for the lease of the equipment. Commissioner Castleberry moved to reject all bids for gravel crushing at the Brownfield pit. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. The guests left the meeting.

The commission requested the road department install speed limit signs on the Ridge Road through Nixon's and discussion regarding dust mitigation on county roads. Carl left the meeting.

Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association CEO Darrel Messersmith and DMHA Board Chair Georgia Bruski joined the meeting to review the building lease agreement between DMHA and Carter County. There was also plans made for the commission to prepare a bid document and Darrell provide dates for the contractors walk through for the repair of the hospital interior. Darrell and Georgia left the meeting.

Carter County Public Health Department Public Health Officer / Public Health Nurse Kirstie Nelson (by phone) and Public Health manager Stefanie Harrington joined the meeting for the review of the current grants and 2026-2027 Fiscal year budget. The commissioners requested a written documentation of the revenue received from patron office visits. Kirstie and Stefanie left the meeting.

Kaylee Bass of Nexus Group C.P.A. PLLC joined the meeting virtually to present the audit exit for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget. Present in person was Carter County Treasurer Jesi Pierson and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright.

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Commissioner Dinstel moved to pay mid-month claims in the amount of \$108,303.45. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve the commissioner's proceedings for July 8, 2026. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Tauck signed the Public Health ^{PH&P} ~~F&P~~ and the immunization grant.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

Rod Tauck 7-22-16

Rod Tauck Chairman

Attest:

Judy W. King
Clerk of the Board