

Commission Proceedings

06/24/2026

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 24, 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.

Meeting Guests: Justice of the Peace Kathy Rosencranz, DES coordinator Georgia Bruski, Carter County Undersheriff Clark O'Donnell, attorney Corbit Harrington, Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright, Levi and Bobbie Price.

Commission Tauck presented public comment by reprimanding Commissioner Castleberry for emailing current Dahl Memorial financial documents to the former Dahl Memorial Healthcare CEO. The documents were provided to all three commissioners by the current Dahl Memorial CEO. Commissioner Tauck went on to reprimand Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright for accessing the video surveillance feed numerous times without commissioners' approval in accordance with the Video Surveillance and Security Policy.

Public comment was also heard from Levi and Bobbie Price dealing with the home that exploded in Alzada early in the morning of June 21, 2026. Undersheriff O'Donnell stated that the explosion is under investigation by the Fire Marshal and the arson team and the Department of Livestock has been notified regarding the horses on the property. The guests left the meeting.

The commissioners granted Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright permission to remove access to Black MT software for former employees or employees that no longer require access to the software for their job title.

The Carter County Weed Board members present were J.O. Tooke, Lee LaBree, and Gabe Carroll, Weed Coordinator Stefan Livingston and Administrative Assistant Taylor Kuntz and county attorney Corbit Harrington joined the meeting with the bid openings for the surplus property. Bids are as follows:

55 gallon mixing cone: Ernie Melum \$25. 14-gallon sprayer: Andrew Wright \$125.

150-gallon sprayer: Ernie Melum \$30, Anthony Gansen \$200.

Metal Frame: Ernie Melum \$25, Les Krietal \$40.

2015 Yamaha Viking UTV: Ernie Melum \$2777, Andrew Wright \$1200, Anthony Gansen \$400.

2012 Honda TRX 500 ATV: Ernie Melum \$1777, Andrew Wright \$950, LA Livingston \$1200.

2006 DCT 16FT. trailer: Ernie Melum \$377, Andrew Wright \$500, Anthony Gansen \$500.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to accept the bids and award the winning bids to Andrew Wright 14-gallon sprayer, Anthony Gansen 150-gallon tank, Les Krietal metal frame, Ernie Melum 2015 Yamaha Viking UTV and 2012 Honda TRX, 500 and the mixing cone. There was discussion on how to resolve the tie bid for the trailer. Attorney Harrington recommended asking if the bids would agree to a coin toss to see who wins the 2006 16FT. trailer. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. The guests left the meeting.

Sheriff Neil Kittlemann, Under Sheriff Clark O'Donnell and Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator Georgia Bruski and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright joined the meeting with the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year budget proposal for Public Safety budget and request an increase in fuel and left everything

else the same. It was decided by the Neil and the commissioners to take the Verkada security system from the public safety funds.

The 2026-2027 DES Coordinator Bruski requested the budget be set at \$60,000 for salaries. The EMPG grant has not been received for 2025-2026 leaving salaries to be cover 100% by Carter County. The rest of the 2026-2027 DES budget was left the same.

Sheriff Kittlemann request that he retain the Rural Fire Warden position after the Sheriff's election. The position is appointed by the board of commissioners and has previously been held by the current county sheriff. Kittlemann is not running for another term as Sheriff. Clerk and recorder Judy Wright requested that the uniform and weapons fund number 2388 be transferred and the fund closed.

Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve Resolution 06242026-01 to create fund 2301 Immigration and Customs. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion there was no public comment and the motion carried.

The commission signed the agreement between Untied States Forest Service and the Sheriff's Department for Parks checks.

Sheriff Kittlemann requested permission to rent several dumpsters for the cleanup of the house explosion in Alzada. The commissioners approved the request for dumpster and dump fees for the clean-up in Alzada. The guests left the meeting.

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Dana Eshelman stepped into the meeting to request a signature on an invoice for fees from Nexus Group CPA. Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the claim for charges for a call made on April 28th to Nexus Group CPA. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Museum expansion and renovation update with Carter County Museum Executive Director Sabre Moore, PhD and Curator of Paleontology Nathan Carroll PhD. Sabre stated that they expect to break ground on the expansion project in September 2026. The dinosaur that was tied into the roof has been moved from the main hall in preparation for roof repairs. The dinosaur will be prepared for remounting and stored in the specialized container.

The Carter County 2026-2027 Fiscal Year budget review included the hire a 16/hour per week Janitor for the Museum all of the museum facilities and hiring South East Trash to collect refuse for the facility.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm and was called to order at 1:15 pm.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp joined the meeting to request approval of bid advertisement for crushing 55,000 yards or 80,000 tons of rock between July 15, 2026 and October 1. 2026 at the Brownfield pit. Carl also requested to advertise for bids on one new belly dump trailer and 3 new road graders with 2 road graders to trade-in. Commissioner Dinstel moved to proceed with the crushing at the Brownfield pit and to go out for bid on the one (1) new belly dump trailer and the three (3) new road graders. The bids will be due July 16, 2026. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. There was discussion regarding the county renting a crusher instead of bidding the crushing at the Brownfield pit.

Carl updated the Commissioners on Road Department projects including the completion of the Plevna Road and the installation of the signs and painted lines on the hospital parking lot sidewalk. The commissioners discussed having the road crew help with the removal of the kitchen equipment and other large items for the old hospital building before demolition. Carl left the meeting.

Carter County Justice of the peace Kathy Rosencranz joined the meeting with the Justice of the Peace 2026-2027 Fiscal Year budget proposal. She added \$2,000 for two (2) trainings. One training will be a 6-week online program and the second training will be the National Judicial Association Conference. Judge Rosencranz will also purchase a new office chair and the old table from her office has been donated to the Ekalaka Volunteer Fire Department. Judge Rosencranz left the meeting.

Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve the commissioners' proceedings for June 11, 2026. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The Commissioners reviewed the Public Health task order and the MTUPP subcontract and responded the email from Public Health Officer / Nurse Kirstie Nelson.

Carter County Custodian Jenna Bruce joined the meeting to request permission for quotes to hire a landscaping company to clean up the flower beds and landscaping. She also requested the repair of the crumbling side walk near the northwest entrance of the courthouse. The commissioners requested that Jenna call landscape companies in the area to gauge interest in the project before preparing an advertisement for bids for landscaping. The commission will prepare an advertisement for bids for the replacement of the sidewalk. Jenna left the meeting.

The Carter County Predator Board meeting with Board Chair Matt Borchgrevink, secretary Bill Kennedy, members Wade Arledge, Lee LaBree and Jeff Tauck. Other guests included trapper Robbie Fix, and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright. Bill read the minutes from the Predator Board meeting minutes from June 17, 2026. Lee moved to approve minutes read Matt seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. There was discussion regarding increasing the budget for helicopter contracted services for predator control.

There was discussion regarding the steps to passing a petition to increase the per capita head on sheep and cattle including the requirement for a letter of request to the commissioners from the Predator Board and 51% of the sheep and 51% of the cattle producers must sign the petition. Commissioner Castleberry moved to accept the letter of request to pack petitions for \$2.00 per capita for sheep and \$2.00 per capita for cattle. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. The predator Board provided their 2026-2027 Fiscal Year budget. The guests left the meeting.

Terra Burman and Jaime Shanks from Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation (EPEDC) joined the meeting to review and discuss the EPEDC Comprehensive Development Strategy and 5-year plan as well as the MOU between EPEDC and Carter County. Terra and Jaime provided information on Town Pump fire fighters equipment grant and back pack and school supplies grant. Terra and Jaime left the meeting.

The commissioners responded to an email request from Weed Department Administrative Assistant Taylor Kuntz requesting over time and work from home hours for 10-14 days after July 10 2026. Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve the overtime hours from June 29th – July 2, 2026 for Weed Department Administrative Assistant Kuntz and the work from home request form 10-14 days starting

Commission Proceedings
06/24/2026

July 10, 2026. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 pm. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

Rod Tauck

Rod Tauck Chairman

Attest:

Judy White

Clerk of the Board