Commission Proceedings
10/30/2026

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 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 9:03 am.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to sign and approve payroll in the amount of $334,043.89 and claims in the amount of $114,223.01. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Camp Needmore Board chairman Nathan Carroll joined the meeting to let the commissioners know that the Camp Needmore Board agreed to hire Diane Adams to provide janitorial services at the camp and request backpay. Commissioner Castleberry moved to hire Diane Adams as Camp Needmore seasonal part-time cleaner with backpay in the amount of $1,440.00. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. Nathan left the meeting.

The commissioners joined a virtual meeting with Maisy Moen with questions regarding quotes for the Spectrum VOIP phone system. The quote includes new hardware, installation, training and the county would keep the same phone numbers. The call ended with Maisy and the commission reviewed the information she provided.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

There was a virtual meeting with Justin Zindell of KLJ Engineering regarding the runway extension project. Guests to the meeting included Airport Board chairman Troy Fruit, Todd Harkins, Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright and Corbit Harrington. Justin met with the Federal Aviation Administration who will not fund the extension with out 325-500 operations from the Ekalaka Airport per year. There was discussion regarding increasing flights to the airport including fly-ins, Young Eagles flight school, and other ideas to promote use of the airport.

Troy asked when the AWOS system will be online. Justin spoke to the company that provides the technical service for the AWOS in August. The request to provide service was between quarterly postings so the airport has been waiting months for the system to be online. Troy suggested that if the system is not online by the end of the month the county will switch services. Justin agreed to contact the provider and get back to Troy. The meeting with Justin ended.

The Carter County Airport Board President Troy Fruit and the rest of the board recommends hiring Todd Harkins for the Airport Maintenance position. Commissioner Castleberry moved to hire Todd Harkins for the Permanent part-time airport manager, as needed, up to 600 hours per year. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. Troy and Todd left the meeting.

The public Hearing for Ordinance O-2026-01 No Camping in Public Right-of-ways. No public joined the meeting. Commissioner Dinstel moved to provisionally be adopted today October 30, 2026.

Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The commissioners discussed the completion date for the Boyes Road shop. The start date was April 6, 2026 with a 90-day completion date or August 28, 2026. Carter County Attorney Corbit Harrington suggested sending R & R Taylor a written notice regarding the final completion of the shop. The commissioners will contract Stahly Engineering to confirm the final walk-through inspection.

Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve the consent agenda including the revised building lease agreement with Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association, approval to pay the DNRC Real Estate Easement from road fund at mid-month claims in November, commissioner's proceedings for October 21, 2026, and cancel the November 25, 2026 commissioners meeting. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Luther Waterland stepped into the meeting to stating that he needs to move the approach on the Beaver Flat Road to top of Chamberland hill. It is a dangerous place to enter the Beaver Flat Road with trucks and equipment. He has spoken to the Carter County Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp. The commissioners stated that Luther would need an encroachment permit before the approach is put in place.

Luther also spoke to the commission regarding the community baseball field. He stated that as his term as a commissioner he agreed to help the baseball club look for land to purchase for a baseball field but was unable to find anything suitable. He will continue to support the efforts of the baseball program. Luther left the meeting.

Hospital interior, courthouse sidewalk and landscape projects. Commissioner Castleberry placed calls to the contractors who showed interest in bidding on the hospital interior repair project last month and received no answer. The Commission placed a call to John Niesner of Scull Construction about repair of the hospital interior. He requested documents and pictures of the areas in need of repair and will look into scheduling a visit to look at he repair project next week.

The commission contacted Hunter Spring of Stahly Engineering regarding the completion of the Boyes Road Shop. Hunter stated that R & R Taylor plans to complete the shop by November 1, 2026. Hunter will be on site for the final walk-through next week. The call ended with Hunter.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the Public Health Board terms as follows: Rona Meyer to October 2029, Jessica Walker to October 2028 and Steve DeFord to October 2027. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to adopt Resolution 10302026-01 requesting the immediate increase in black bear harvest and that the resolution be sent to the Region 7 headquarters of the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, in Miles City, MT. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

Rod Tauck

Rod Tauck, Chairman

Attest: Judy Wright

Clerk of the Board