

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, August, 19, 2026, in the Carter County Commission Board Meeting Room of the Carter County Courthouse at 214 Park Street in Ekalaka, Montana. Pam Castleberry, Vice Chairman and Dan Dinstel, member were present. Rod Tauck, Chairman, was absent.

There was a public comment by phone from Helen King regarding the Dump Road. She is concerned that the road and approaches are not wide enough for use by agricultural equipment or meeting vehicles. There was also a call from Bill Roadifer regarding grading and gravel for the Chimney Rock Road. The commissioners will review the plans for the Dump Road and Chimney Rock RD with the Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp so that he is aware of Helen and Bill's concerns and discuss plans for the road.

Carter County Extension Administrative Assistant Brandi Johnstone joined the meeting with an administrative issue and a request for permission to set milk jugs outside at the fairgrounds for a Clover Buds winter seed planting project. The commission approved the milk jugs placed by the beef barn for the Clover Buds seed project. Brandi left the meeting.

Clerk of District Court/Superintendent of Schools Tracey Walker, Deputy Clerk of District Court/ Senior Coordinator Tricia Lovec and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright joined the meeting where Tracey requested moving Tricia to full -time Deputy Clerk of District Court to cover while Tracey is out of the office for family leave and to train Tricia to fill the position as Clerk of District Court. Tricia currently works 12 hours a week as the Deputy Clerk of District Court and 28 hours a week for the Senior Coordinator position. The commissioners wish to discuss the matter more before making a decision on the position at an upcoming meeting. Tracey and Tricia left the meeting.

The commission called Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp to notice him of the road related public comments. The commissioners also mentioned the trees in the right of way near the Wear Dam that will need to be removed. Carl is aware of the trees and has spoke to the landowners. There will be a walk-through inspection of the Boyes Road Shop Monday, August 24, 2026 at 10 am. The call with Carl ended.

Carter County Custodian Jenna Bruce joined the meeting with the results of the soil testing from the courthouse lawn that showed high sodium levels. Jenna received recommendations from Carter County Extension Agent Amanda Williams, that the trees are turning brown from lack of water and fertilizer. Jenna contacted landscape companies in the area and found that none of them are willing to come to Ekalaka to clean up the landscaping at the courthouse. The commission requested Jena provide an ad to be run in the Ekalaka Eagle for the cleanup of the landscape including replace the landscape fabric and mulch, as well as trimming or removing the plants. Jenna left the meeting.

Carter County Attorney Corbit Harrington joined the meeting where Corbit and the commissioners discussed the building lease agreement with Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association. The updated agreement should be sent to Bond Counsel for review before approval by the commissioners.

Jade Boggs from The Insurance Store joined the meeting with the Property and Casualty Insurance renew for 2026-2027. Other guests included Attorney Harrington and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright. Jade updated the commissioners on the changes to the policy and there was discussion regarding setting the renewal date to July 1st rather than September 1st. Commissioner Castleberry moved to accept the

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Travelers Property and Casualty Insurance 2026-2027 Policy. The commissioners and guests discussed cyber security insurance and coverage for the Boyes Road Shop and the museum expansion project. Commissioner Dinstel moved to accept the insurance renewal of \$398,628.48 prorated to move the renewal date to July 1st. Commissioner Castleberry stepped from the chair and seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:15 pm and was called to order at 1:00 pm.

The commissioners conducted a walk through of the Carter County Medical Facility to inspect the interior damages from the June 2025 hail storm. The commission requested bids for the repair of the damage with bids due September 9th, 2026. There have been no bids received to date.

The commission signed a letter providing additional information for the 2025 Fiscal year audit finding. The letter was sent to the financial department of the Montana Department of Administration.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the commission proceedings August 13, 2026. Commissioner Castleberry stepped from the chair and seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Castleberry provided an over view of the Carter County Conservation District meeting and the Ekalaka Town Council meeting.

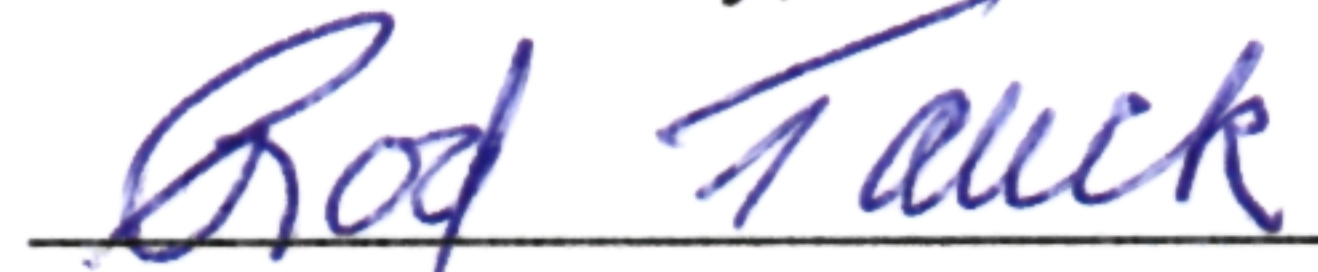
Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Dana Eshelman joined the meeting for a work session on the proposed 2026-2027 Fiscal Year budget.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Castleberry stepped from the chair and seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

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Rod Tauck Chairman

Attest: _____


Clerk of the Board