

## Commission Proceedings

04/16/2026

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 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 9:09 am.

Public comment: Predator Board member Lee LaBree called into the meeting to ask about joining the meeting at 3:30 for the predator control aerial contract.

Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright joined the meeting.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to accept and pay the mid-month claims in the amount of \$119,544.22. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Dana Eshelman joined the meeting with information from The Montana Department of Livestock regarding landowner permission forms for aerial hunting. The forms are valid until they are revoked. They must be revoked in writing by the landowner. Some of the older forms that Carter County has used have specific time frame specified such as 1-3 years. Dana left the meeting.

The bid advertisement for building repair from the June 2025 hail storm. Commissioner Dinstel moved to proceed with advertising for roof repair and replacement at the County event center, the two (2) museum warehouses and the courthouse cupola. Commissioner Castleberry stepped from the chair and seconded the motion. Commissioner Dinstel commented that Commissioner Tauck stepped from the meeting to meet with Bridger pipeline. There was no other comments. The motion carried. Commissioner Castleberry requested that Administrative Assistant Melissa Schwede submit the ads to the Fallon County Times and The Ekalaka Eagle.

Commissioner Tauck, Attorney Corbit Harrington, Treasurer Jesi Pierson, Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright joined the meeting for the Treasurers report. Jesi presented the investments and Securities, reports R100, Tx130a, L110x, Mv120 and the cash report. Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the third quarter reports. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the county providing two million dollars for the Museum renovation and expansion by way of a resolution to provide support for grant awards. Jesi suggested funds in 4000 accounts that would draw interest.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:59 am. The meeting was called to order at 1:09 pm.

The Department of Revenue with Lisa Rieger, area manager Marissa Gundlach and Vicky Dauterman and Carter County Treasurer Jesi Pierson joined the meeting where Lisa requested the commissioners provide direction on American Colloid tax on special mobile heavy equipment. It has previously been prorated by DOR. Commissioner Castleberry moved to have Department of Revenue tax the migratory heavy equipment at 100% and have the Carter County pro-rate the taxes based on the amount of time the equipment is in Carter County. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. The motion carried. The guests left the meeting.

Predator Board member Lee LaBree joined the meeting.

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Gary Hablutzel from Employee Management Services Insurance (EBMS) joined the meeting with a quote for Joint Powers Trust Insurance (JPT). Gary explained the changes in the dental and vision add-ons and the 7% increase in premium. Gary and Corbit left the meeting.

Guests included Carter County Museum Executive Director Sabre Moore, Ph.D Sabre provided information on two upcoming funding opportunities, one in Billings, MT May 13<sup>th</sup> and Missoula MT June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

There was discussion setting a resolution to commit two million dollars from the County to the Geological Society / Carter County Museum. The museum is moving forward with planetarium designs, and floor plans for the museum and laboratory are a work in process. Sabre left the meeting.

Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright and Treasurer Jesi Pierson stepped into the meeting to request permission to transfer monies from the museum 2360 fund to museum capital improvement fund 4007 so that the money may be invested to draw interest. Commissioner Castleberry moved to transfer 1.4 million dollars to capital improvement funds. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion and there was no public comment and the motion carried.

Justice of the Peace Kathy Rosencranz joined the meeting to request the purchase of a standing desk for her office. She provided quotes for desks ranging in price up to \$2,000. Commissioner Dinstel moved to agree the purchase of a standing desk for the Justice of Peace office up to \$2,000. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. Justice of the Peace Rosencranz requested permission to order the desk with the county credit card and to increase the limit to \$2,000. The commissioners agreed to the credit card limit increase. Justice of the Peace Rosencranz left the meeting.

Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve the consent agenda for April 16, 2026 including airport storage tank insurance renewal for 2027, Letter to the Department of Revenue approving the power of attorney to access the account and commissioner s proceedings of April 08, 2026. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The aerial hunting contract with Broken Arrow Helicopter LLC. Predator Board members Lee LaBree, in person, and Matt Borchgrevink, by phone, discussed the contract, permissions slips and providing Predator Board meetings and meeting dates. Commissioner Dinstel moved to sign the predator contract with Broken Arrow Helicopter LLC for \$25,000. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

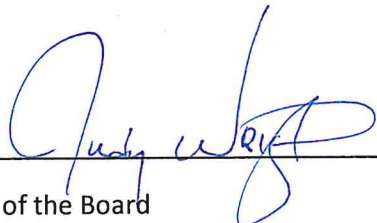
There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

  
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Rod Tauck Chairman

Attest:   
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Clerk of the Board