

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, October 07, 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.

There was no public comment.

Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright presented quotes for a courthouse vehicle. She budgeted \$80,000 for the purchase. Commissioner Dinstel moved to authorize Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright to purchase a vehicle that is a 2024 or newer with 60,000 miles or less for \$70,000 or less with third row seats. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Phil Cook joined the meeting.

Judy would like to clean up the junk vehicle lot and the old county shop area including the vehicles, metal and wood. She requested permission to call Baker Metal to pick up the junk vehicles. The commissioners recommend that the Judy place an ad in the paper so people are aware the vehicles will be removed by the county. Judy left the meeting.

Phil asked about the request for bids for landscape cleanup at the courthouse. He would remove the volunteer trees and plants in the beds. He suggested doing that part of the rehab this fall and finish this project in the spring. This would include replacing the mulch and trimming and thinning established plants. The commission requested a written quote and proof of independent contractor's license. Phil left the meeting.

Avel mental health crisis intervention program will be funded for the county through Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center (EMCMHC). The commissioners placed a call to Jeff Regan of EMCMHC with questions about the program. Avel will provide counties with electronic tablets and training for law officers in contact with persons who may need assistance with mental health. The commission will follow up with Jeff by email for two tablets and contact information for officer O'Donnell to set up the training. The call ended with Jeff.

Treasurer Jesi Pierson joined the meeting to present the quarterly investments and security reports including R100 receipts summary, Tx 130A tax receipt distribution, MV120 motor vehicle finance cash report, L110x, A101 receipt detail, and, L160 cash report. Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve the quarterly investment reports, journal vouchers and transfers. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. Jesi left the meeting.

Fuel Master system for the road shop virtual meeting with Joel Baumgartner. Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright and County attorney Corbit Harrington joined the meeting. Joel

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outlined the history of Fuel Mater systems. The system can be set up to use Wex cards and can be set up per person who would enter a vehicle number to fuel the vehicle. Joel will send a quote for the FM live system and the legacy system. The meeting with Joel ended.

There was discussion regarding the Cottonwood Creek Road Resolution to make sure the bridge replacement can take place by moving the bridge to an area near its current location. This would allow for traffic flow during construction.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:55 am and was called to order at 1:05.

Chairman Tauck added Stefanie Harrington's review of work from home request to the consent agenda. Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve another week of working from home for Stefanie and schedule a meeting with Stefanie and Human Resources representative Michelle Edwards of Westaff inc. for another review during the October 15, 2026 commissioners meeting. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to table the WIC task order until attorney Harrington receives more information. The task order will be on the October 15, 2026 commissioner's agenda. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the regular commissioner proceedings for September 17 and 23, 2026. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Castleberry moved to approve the closed session proceedings for October 23, 2026. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Justin Zindell of KLJ Engineering joined the meeting virtually with in person guests included Airport Board president Troy Fruit, county attorney Corbit Harrington and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright. There was discussion regarding funding for the land acquisition for the runway extension. There is currently partial funding the FAA for 575 feet. The remaining portion is not available for funding through the FAA due to the low volume of flights to the airport. FAA requires 500 flights a year to qualify for the funding for a longer extension. There was discussion regarding an environmental assessment and land survey. Justin will check back with more information after he meets with the FAA. The meeting with Justin ended. Troy and Judy left the meeting.

The commissioners placed a call to Hunter Spring of Stahly Engineering regarding the punch list for the Boyes Road shop. Hunter will contact Greg Benjamin of Stahly Engineering and R and R Taylor with the list of incomplete items on the punch list and respond to the commissioners with an email regarding the outcome.

Commission Proceedings

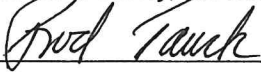
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Commissioner Tauck moved to accept Austin Denning's resignation from the Airport Manager position. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

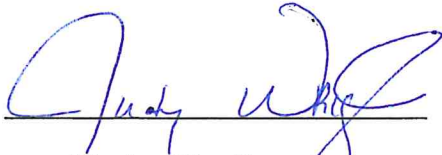
Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana



Rod Tauck, Chairman

Attest:



Clerk of the Board