

Commission Proceedings

01/21/2026

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, January 21, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright joined the meeting.

Public comment: Commissioner Dinstel stated that there have been issues with the cell phone notifications on a fire in Alzada. DES Coordinator/ Sheriff's office administrator Georgia Bruski stepped into the meeting to speak to the issues with the phone notification system and that the main point of contact for emergency personnel is still the hand-held radios. Georgia suggested that the Alzada Fire Department contact her with an updated list of fire crew that wish to use the phone notification system once the bugs are worked out. Georgia left the meeting.

Consent Agenda: Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the consent agenda including the commissioners' proceedings for January 15, 2026, early warrant for the Verkada security systems deposit payment in the amount of \$19,900 and the notice of the Town of Ekalaka Mill levy resolution. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The Carter County Weed Board members: Matt McCabe, Lee LaBree, J.O. Tooke, and Gabe Carroll. Weed Department manager Stefan Livingston, Weed Department Administrative Assistant Taylor Kuntz and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright joined the meeting.

The Weed Board approved general business including meeting minutes and purchase of new accounting software. Lee LaBree moved to approve Matt McCabe to a 5-year term. J.O. Tooke seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Lee moved to leave the Weed Board Elected Officers the same as last year. Gabe Carroll to remain Board Chair, J.O. Tooke as Vice-Chair and Lee LaBree as secretary. J.O. seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

DES Coordinator/Sheriffs office administrator Georgia Bruski joined the meeting.

New building proposal for the weed department, rural fire and 4-H shooting sports presented by Taylor Kuntz. This would be part of the 5 year capital improvement plan. The commissioners suggested contacting all parties involved in the building project, including Sheriff/ county fire warden, the weed board and the Carter County Extension before moving forward with the building plans.

Matt McCabe moved to hire a contractor to inspect the current weed department building for more damage from the June 2025 hail storm before deciding on repairing the roof. J.O. Tooke seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The Weed Board and staff left the meeting.

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Carter County Treasurer Jesi Pierson and County Attorney Corbit Harrington joined the meeting where Jesi presented the Treasurer's report. The reports included were L100, R100, Tx 13A, L110XF, and MV120. Jesi left the meeting.

Attorney Harrington and the commissioners discussed the Snowy River sequestration project and Cooperating agency with the BLM and the EPA.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:00 pm and was called to order at 1:05 pm.

Museum expansion project update: Executive Director of the Carter County Museum Sabre Moore and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright joined the meeting. Sabre presented 3 (RFP) requests for proposals. All of the companies have worked with Cushing Terrell. The Geological Society recommends moving all three to the short list. Commissioner Dinstel made the motion that all three firms be moved forward in the pursuit of general contractor construction manager (GCCM). Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion and the motion carried.

June 2025 storm damage: The museum plans to proceed with the repair of the museum building roof and the storage building in stages. The third storage building will not be repaired as they plan to replace it.

The museum roof and trusses need to be replaced. This will require the duckbill dinosaur to be moved and stored safely off site. The museum has contacted a company to move the duckbill and purchase a HVC container. Sabre is applying for a grant to pay a portion of the approximate \$74,000 cost of the duckbill move and repair of the roof.

The museum will have to be closed during roof repair and portions of the museum expansion project. The employees will not be able to work in the building. Sabre is looking for office space to rent during the closure of the museum. Sabre left the meeting.

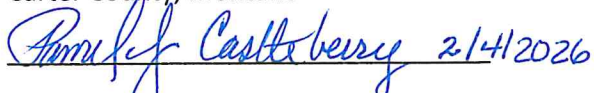
Airport expansion: There was virtual meeting with Justin Zindell of KLJ Engineering with in-person guests Austin Denning, airport maintenance and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright. KLJ Engineering is working through the FCC licensing process for the AWOS III (automated weather observing system).

Justin informed the commissioners that the FAA will require 500 flights a year to qualify for the grant and either a categorial exclusion determination (CATEX) or an environmental assessment (EA).

Commissioner Dinstel suggested waiting on the land purchase for the runway extension until the decision on the EA or CATEX. Justin suggested speaking to the landowners about the purchase of the property needed for the expansion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Carter County, Montana

 2/14/2026

Pamela J. Castleberry Vice - Chairman

Attest:


Clerk of the Board