

Commission Proceedings
03/25/2026

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, March 25, 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 9:06 am.

There was no public comment.

The commission discussed the hospital roof repair and the possibility of an emergency repair declaration for the membrane roof and the water damaged interior.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp and Road crew member Nolen Dvorak joined the meeting for Nolen's 1 year probation review. Commissioner Dinstel moved to remove Mr. Dvorak's from probation status on the recommendation of Road Supervisor Knapp. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Carl let the commissioners know that gravel mining at the Brownfield pit is complete. Brosz Engineering measured the pile at 151,500 yards after which the county road crew mined approximately 3,500 more yards of gravel. The road department is in the process of reclamation and reseeding the previously disturbed areas at the Brownfield pit.

The Boyes Road shop building pad has been prepared. The road crew will finish hauling gravel for the parking area for the shop. The gravel for the parking lot will be hauled in Monday, March 30, 2026.

Carl agreed to gravel the Boyes Hall parking area at the request of Commissioner Dinstel. Nolen and Carl left the meeting.

Deputy Treasurer Cecile Smith-Kuehn joined the meeting to see if the commission is interested in Time Clock Plus (TCP) software. This would be used in place of paper time sheets and would interface with the Black Mountain accounting software the county already uses. The decision was made to stay with the paper timesheets that are currently in place.

Cecile presented warrant number 23580 in the amount of \$83.11 to replace a missing warrant number 23751 that was signed by Commissioner Tauck. Cecile left the meeting.

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Dana Eshelman stepped into the meeting to make the commissioners aware that the county was awarded the Destination Mt Grant. The grant will be used for the expansion and rehabilitation of the Carter County Museum as well as other projects. Dana left the meeting.

County Attorney Corbit Harrington joined the meeting where there was a discussion regarding the contract between the Carter County Sheriff's Office and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Hospital mitigation and demolition with Karly Lacock from Great Northern Corporation and David Sanborn and Karlyn Soriano with Granite peak Environmental. Karly will set a public meeting as part of Brownfield grant process. David asked follow up questions regarding utilities line locations, top soil for the site, project boundary fencing, time frame for completion, bid bond and performance bond and letter of request to the area landfills. Karlyn Soriano will be on site to look over the area before the mitigation and demolition of the buildings in the coming weeks.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:28 pm and was called to order at 1:16 pm.

Commission Proceedings

03/25/2026

Guests include DES Coordinator Georgia Bruski, Attorney Corbit Harrington and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright. Georgia presented contracts for 60 acres of fire mitigation. Bids have been received from Soft Tack Attack for \$120,000 and Iron Horse Construction for \$45,000. Commissioner Castleberry moved to offer the contract for fire mitigation to Iron Horse construction. Commissioner Dinstel seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. Georgia left the meeting.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to proceed with the emergency repair of the hospital roof with a letter from Dahl Memorial CEO Darrell Messersmith. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. Attorney Harrington referenced MCA 7-5-2301 (2) providing guidelines for declaration of an emergency repair that would require immediate action to prevent patient safety and health risk, as well as well as loss and damage to property. This would allow for direct work. The motion carried.

Carter County Public Health manager Stefanie Harrington joined the meeting to discuss the master contract with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). Due to the fact that the contract has numerous changes from the previous contract and would be renewed in 10 years the commissioners tabled the changes to the contract until the next commissioners meeting. Stefanie and Attorney Harrington left the meeting.

Virtual meeting with Greg Benjamin of Stahly Engineering to request Stahly Engineering's assistance with review of the final bid documents for the repair of the hospital roof. Greg agreed to look at the documents.

The Boyes Road shop building pad has been prepared by the county road department with possibility of compaction tests before proceeding with the building project. Stahly will provide a notice to proceed to the contractor. The meeting with Greg ended.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the lease agreement with Fallon County for the use of the 2013 Ford senior bus and the commissioners' proceedings for March 11th and 18th. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to adjourn at 3:15 pm. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the meeting adjourned.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

Rod Tauck

Rod Tauck, Chairman

Attest: Judy Wright
Clerk of the Board