

Commission Proceedings  
03/04/2026

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, March 04, 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.

Deputy Treasurer-Payroll Clerk Cecile Smith-Kuehn stepped into the meeting to request a signature on a replacement Fair Board warrant. The missing warrant # 23771 was replaced with warrant # 23849.

Commissioner Dinstel received a call from Mike Skillstad of Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to request a letter of support for the nine mile resurfacing project on highway 212 at mile marker 130 near Alzada from the commissioners. There were 5 letters of support for the road project sent to the MDT.

Vice chair Pamela Castleberry called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. There was no public comment.

Carter County Conservation District Treasurer Wayne Yost, Deputy Treasurer / Payroll Clerk Cecile Smith Kuehn, and Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright joined the meeting where Wayne requested a pay increase for the Conservation District Administrator position held by Karen Kreitel. The county wages are set on a tier system. The position should be on the Department head tier that would be paid at \$28.54 per hour. It has been paid out as a secretarial position at \$24.02 per hour.

Wayne stated the Conservation District is looking into their own property insurance policy for the district storage buildings. Wayne and Cecile left the meeting.

Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright requested clarification on the use of the LATCF funds for the Boyes Road shop for the yearly report required for the LATCF funds. The commissioners agreed that the LATCF funds should be used for the Boyes Road shop building project.

Consent Agenda: Indigent burial fees, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Automated Weather observation system (AWOS III) maintenance agreement and letters of support. Commissioner Dinstel moved to increase indigent burial fees from \$1,900 to \$3,000 to be paid to Stevenson Funeral Home. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. The Commission signed the letter of request from Stevenson's and returned it to them.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to sign the AWOS III maintenance agreement with the FAA. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to sign letters of support from Great West Engineering for the application for grant funds to repair the bridge on Trail Creek Road for Custer County, the Montana Department of Transportation's nine-mile resurfacing project on highway 212 near Alzada, and the letter of support for the United States Forest Service (USFS) the Box Elder Creek crossing. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve the wage increase requested by Conservation District Treasurer Wayne Yost for Conservation District Administrator position held by Karen Keitel. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

County Attorney Corbit Harrington joined the meeting where he gave an update on the meeting, he attended March 2, 2026 with BLM field solicitor Lisa Bruno and attorney Wally Congdon to propose a resolution to the litigation pending before the Interior Land Board and negotiate terms for the county

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cooperative agency agreement with the BLM. Attorney Harrington recommends an energy policy or plan added to the Resource use Plan.

Election Administrator Judy Wright made a request for a local government primary election. Commissioner Dinstel moved to approve and sign the request for local government primary election June 2, 2026. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to sign letter of support for the District 2 Congressional Grant application for the Emswiller pool. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:40 am and called to order at 1:00 pm.

Workers compensation insurance information was provided by guests Kin Neimer of Montana State Fund Workers Compensation and Jade Boggs of The insurance Store. They will return at a later date with quotes for the county. The guests left the meeting.

Boyes Road Shop bid award: Guests included Greg Benjamin P.E. and Hunter Spring P.E. of Stahly Engineering, Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright. Stahly Engineering recommends R & R Taylor with a bid of \$385,967. Commissioner Dinstel made the motion to have Stahly Engineering provide the letter of award and a notice to proceed to R & R Taylor. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment.

There was a call in with Ekalaka Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chef Mike Ashbrook where Mike requested to purchase 250 yards of gravel from the county. The commission figured various locations of available gravel and possible costs. The Commissioners suggested that Mike contract other sources for gravel and the commission will speak with The Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp about availability and price of gravel for the fire hall. The call with Mike ended.

Executive Director Sabre Moore PHD joined the meeting to request a letter of commitment for the expansion and renovation of the Carter County Museum. Sabre stated that the museum has made application for the reimagine rural grant and a Wells Fargo grant with plans to use them for oral history projects including the Tooke bucking horses.

Commissioner Dinstel moved to sign the letter of commitment for the Carter County Museum expansion and renovation. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. Sabre left the meeting.

The June 2025 storm damage: The commission went through the department letters required by the commission to let them know if the department wishes to proceed with repairs from the storm.

Dan moved to table the decision on June 2025 hail storm damage repairs until the March 25, 2026 commission meeting. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

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Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

Rod Tauck

Rod Tauck Chairman

Attest: Judy White  
Clerk of the Board