

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 11th, 2026

*Prairie County Court House Court Room
217 West Park St Terry, MT 59349*

www.prairiecounty.org

Prairie County Board of Commissioners, Todd Devlin, Christine Keltner and Dennis Teske met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. In attendance Administrative Assistant Harry McNall.

9:00 a.m. Pledge of allegiance and call to order.

Public Comment:

Shane Eaton: Clarification from February 7th, 2026 article in the Terry Tribune. He read a excerpt out of the article over the Ballet Petition saying “Shane didn’t make corrections that we ask to be made.” Could you clarify what changes that you ask for that we didn’t make? I believe it is a false statement. Can you back up your claims “that we would rather go to court than make corrections?”

Commissioner Devlin said he would have to speak with the county attorney.

Share Eaton: There seems to be a history of false claims in the paper. There should be a motion to change the “chair” on the commission to reduce liability for the county.

Shane made a comment about citizens not being able to phone into make public comment, and the commission using zoom calls for their meetings. There should not be two standards.

The third question: what is the definition to the county of what “crazy money” is?

Dave Hudson: Thanks for allowing public comment. As for going against the citizens on public vote? I am sure you will vote against “Last Best Place” against the citizens wishes. Thirdly I am embarrassed that you continue to go against the citizens.

Harry McNall made a comment for Jan Hendricks the mail carrier out of Fallon, there is a bad spot on Whitney Creek that needs attention, she can barely get through it in 4-wheel drive.

9:16 a.m. Commissioner Teske arrived at the meeting.

Commissioner Teske said we as a county should have let the process play out instead of suing to stop the ballot petition. We should be supporting our citizens.

Aaron Martinson: Commissioner Keltner, you said that we have to hold boards to a higher standard. We don’t feel respected when your head is down and not listening, are the standards for the boards or also for the commission?

9:30 a.m. Supervisor Todd Henry joined the meeting to update commissioner about the road department. Supervisor Henry responded to Whitney Creek that this time of year, roads have

these issues. There are two trees down by Browning that need removed. He has a bid from Tom Magalski to remove the trees from the top down. Commissioner agreed that removing the entire tree is safer.

Supervisor Henry ask about running a mill levy in general. Commissioner Devlin will work some numbers to hire additional employees and equipment. If we have six guys it will be like having 5 with sick leave, vacations etc. throughout the year.

Discussed bringing on Chris Koppenhaver on the road department as an emergency. Commissioner Teske will reach out to him.

There was discussion about the meeting with Senator Sheehy's office this afternoon, to try to get Federal land for gravel pits, changed over to county ownership. As well as discussion to try to get the gun range included in that ownership change. The difficulties of running and operating a gravel pit will be only get more difficult if ownership isn't changed.

10:00 a.m. Teams Meeting with Jeff Keys Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) for an update on the Milwaukee bridge project. Jeff feels that this project will be up in April. He provided updates on permits concerning this project. He went over the bidding process with the focus on small business first and larger as a secondary consideration, so all sizes of business can bid on this project. There appears to be strong interest in contractors for this project. On January 29th, 2026, there were notifications posted for pre-advertisement for project bidding. The next is to have the plan at 100% which will be early March and then it will go to the Chief Engineer for approval. The commission will send a letter to FHWA to approve it to put it out for bid so the project can go forward. The next update will be April 15th, 2026.

Lindsey Siebrasse with the department of commerce. They are requesting a copy of the plan to review, to confirm notices etc as a requirement. Once it is 100% they would like to review for TCEPT. Jeff Keys explained what he can provide and where to get the other information as it comes available.

10:35 a.m. Commissioners reviewed correspondences received since last meeting.

Commissioners read comments submitted by Arne Sutton, Chris & Glenda Ueland,

10:51 a.m. Delite Dukart with Watts Insurance provided the commission with a proposal for replacing grandstands at the fairgrounds in the event of total loss for insurance purposes. The commissioners agreed to insuring it for \$900,000.00 for insurance purposes, which is higher than the quoted replacement costs.

10:55 a.m. Commissioners worked on wording for a letter for public comment.

Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from January 28th, 2026, commissioners meeting.

10:48 a.m. Pam Wallace with MACo Healthcare Trust phoned into the meeting, she provided an update to the commission about rate increases and changes. There would be a 5% rate increase. She will be in on the 27th, to visit directly with the commissioners.

12:05 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from January 28th, 2026, commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder provided commissioners with claims to sign and review.

Prairie County Voucher # 1094 \$22,732.36

Prairie County Voucher # 1095 \$5,130.10

Journal Adjustments # 224, 289

2:00 p.m. Zoom meeting with Eric Urban and Celia Rigby with Senator Sheehy's Office. She has been working on gathering information for gravel pits through the US Department of Interior. There was discussion on Cherry Creeks gravel pit for free use permits. Commissioner Teske provided a background on the concerns/issues we have had getting these permits in place for gravel pits through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He explained to Celia that changing title to county would make sense for us at the county. Commissioner Teske explained that if we go forward with title transfer, we would like to include the land the shooting range is on, taking it as well from federal ownership to county ownership. She updated the commission about congressional spending through Sheehy's Office and wanted to provide that information to the sheriff's office as well.

2:30 p.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson updated the commissioners that there will be election training from 2/22-2/27 so there will be limited coverage in the office that week. During this time birth certificates and marriage licenses will not be processed and will be completed the following week.

2:37 p.m. County Treasurer Garrett Lapp provided the commissioners with an investment authorization. Delinquent tax notifications went out at the beginning of February.

2:41 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign and accept the Treasurer Investment Authorization Report, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

The accounts balance sheet shows a zero-balance, and it is coming up on 1 year of zero-balance for the county.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment

Jacob Kitson: has a comment about the lawsuit against the citizens ballot initiative. Seems this increases the speculation and evidence on the commissioner chair for going against people. I made Freedom of Information Act FOIA requests and it seems you were ready for this. I have been disappointed with your stalling of the process. You can be removed from the seats your are in.

Aaron Martinson: Commented about citizens' commenting to the board, and leave feeling they have not been heard, why would they come back? Please just listen.

Ron Tibbets: Why did you change the rules that you cannot call into the regular public meetings. Commissioner Devlin explained that it was overwhelming number of comments. Ron said that you are not representing the county very well, which is why you are getting so many comments.

Scott Eaton: Have you had any information on the marijuana tax? Commissioners explained that it came from the state.

Lon Reukauf: Concerning voices of Montana. He read the comments he left for voices of Montana, about zoning concerning State and Federal Land, and it doesn't apply to that land. Not saying you should or shouldn't zone, but if you do there is still 50% of the county that would not be in that zoning area.

Reene Pirtz: just calling in for not allowing phone comments. What about people who are physically disabled. How many trips do staff take for MACo training? How far reaching is MACo? Please reconsider "the removal of phone in public comments."

Commissioner Devlin, it depends on what training is going on, some for treasurer, Clerk & Recorder, Election Administrator, etc. that require certification/training.

3:30 p.m. Lon Reukauf chairman of Land Planning Board and Tracey Dion. He is presenting the final copy of the final draft of the Prairie County Growth Policy. There have been many minor but important and correct changes that need to be completed. At the last board meeting there was a vote to finalize this policy. There was a section about Zoning Regulation. Lon Read the section for the commissioners. The Growth Plan allows for zoning to occur. Great West Engineering didn't charge as much as Lon had expected. I have spoken to Bill Lloyd, about various items and future needs by the Land Planning Board such as a document for "buildings for lease or rent."

Commissioner Devlin explained the Great West Engineering is a Gold Member of MACo.

The land planning board accounts have low income, and the expense has been going up. Where can we get funding, grants, etc? The Land Planning Board also recognizes that updating the property ownership map.

Lon had just spent time at the Department of Revenue in Miles city, to fill out a long-term lease for homes on his property that are owned by the farm's corporation. This will hopefully keep their homes from being taxed at a higher rate, and may be useful for other farmers, but you only have till March 1st.

4:05 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

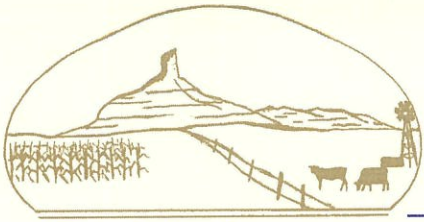
Signed this 27th day of February 2026



Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST: 

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder



Prairie County

Montana

February 11, 2026.

Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 125 • 217 Park St W • Terry, MT 59349

Phone: (406) 635-5575 • Fax: (406) 635-5576

Dear affected Landowners:

The Prairie County Commissioner would like to inform you that a public hearing will be held March 2nd, 2026. The hearing will be at the Evelynn Cameron Heritage Building 212 Laundre Ave, Terry, MT 59349, at 7:00 p.m. The commissioners will accept public input, either in support, or opposition. The Commissioners will be determining, whether “the public interest or convenience” requires that the board of County Commissioners establish the Next Best Place Citizens Initiated Zoning District.

A copy of the signed resolution of intent No. 26-19 can be obtained through the Clerk and Recorder’s Office.

All citizens have the right to provide written or oral comments concerning the need for the creation of the petitioned district.

Respectfully,

Prairie County Board of Commissioners