

## **Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting**

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 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. Call to order, public Comment. No comments.

9:30 a.m. Commissioner Devlin signed Eastern Montana Drug Task Force Memorandum of Understanding Fiscal Year 2027.

Commissioners reviewed correspondence

10:00 a.m. The recording computer went down, and was restored at 10:09 a.m. There was a discussion about who can be on the canvas for the county. MCA 15-14-401 describes who is allowed to be apart of the canvas. Election Administrator Shari Robertson explained that the county commission board is the canvas board, even if it is the race they participate in, there are no ballots associated with the canvas, just number confirmation.

The commissioners confirmed seals on tally books, to ensure they were handled properly. The commission confirmed tally numbers for each precinct tally book and compared them to the final total number for each race and party.

Discrepancy on Supreme Court Justice Dan Wilson, off by 1 tally precinct 3. Election Administrator called the Secretary of State Department to determine how to handle the discrepancy. The state explained that the one vote off will not change the race, so it is up to the canvas board on consideration of a recount.

11:24 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to change the canvas sheet from 52 to 51 in precinct 3 for Dan Willson to match what was in the tally book, seconded by Commissioner Tekse, "all in favor" motion passed.

11:34 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the canvas with the correction with the one vote error for Dan Willson in precinct 3 corrected, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

Arron Martinson asks if he could make a public comment. He updated the commissioners that Glendive Wind LLC is leaving the county, and he suggests dropping the lawsuit to save money.

11:30 a.m. David Seitz & Jamie Larson with Seitz Insurance to go over workman's comp renewal. No claims this last policy period for the county. David went over coverage details for the policy for 07/01/26-07/01/2027. We should be seeing a return (discount) on premiums in 2028.

12:00 p.m. Commissioners Adjourn for lunch

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided claims and journal adjustments.

Prairie County Voucher # 1149 \$58,362.02

Prairie County Voucher # 1150 \$14,444.98

Prairie County Voucher # 1148 \$9,943.90

Prairie County Voucher # 1146 \$32,211.34

Prairie County Voucher # 1147 \$3,611.68

Journal Adjustment Voucher # 456, 453, 433,432

Commissioner Devlin made a motion on RM88 for records that have met their retention dates according to Montana Code 7-5-2132 from the clerk & recorder's office from 2016-2017 and Commissioner Devlin's notes from 2025 budget, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

1:41 p.m. Commissioner Devlin read the Resolution 26-24.

1:44 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to pass resolution 26-24 Resolution of Intent to adopt "Prairie County Growth Policy 2026", seconded by Commissioner Teske, open to discussion, question how to update growth policy after the acceptance to include solar and data centers, "all in favor" motion passed.

Public Hearing Date will be June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. Commissioners reviewed applications for the fill in janitorial position.

2:15 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to hire Cody Schenkel to fill in /relief janitor position seconded Commissioner Keltner "all in favor" motion passed.

2:18 p.m. County Treasurer Garrett Lapp went over treasurer report, cash reconciliation report (showing a \$0 balance), investment authorization form and property value adjustments.

2:38 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the June Investment Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

2:39 p.m. Commissioners reviewed adjustments made by the Department of Revenue (DOR) and signed 2 property adjustments for personal property (cattle reporting), and 4 that concern mobile home parks, and one other adjustment, which will result in a refund of \$61.91.

2:52 p.m. Commissioner Devlin signed the modification of service contract with Action for Eastern Montana Contract # 2026-001-05.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment:

Christy Lyles Last Best Place Zoning district nonparticipating, would like to say that there should be surveying done so that physical boundaries can be established around the district. She also ask about what the setbacks are for the district. Need a physical boundary established.

Kent Lyles state statue says they must survey it and make a permeant boundary; a fence is not a boundary line.

Renee Pirtz commented that Glendive Wind has exited the county, and they are not an energy provider. Ask that you drop the lawsuit.

Kirby Basta family owns land in Prairie County, commented on the ballot initiative, and wind turbine projects. Sponsored the initiative in Dawson County, and it passed. You should have your lawyer drop the suit

Shane Eaton: Commented about the lawsuit and Glendive Wind LLC has left the county. It would be a good decision to stop the lawsuit now.

Allison Bernard: Commented that it doesn't make sense to continue the lawsuit.

Norma Peabody: She agrees that money should not be spent on the lawsuit.

Kent Lyles: Commented about commissioner Devlin's work for the county over the years, lots of time put into the county as a benefit.

Norma Peabody: we are dealing with the present, not the past. The lawsuit should be dropped.

Allison Bernard: Commented about Commissioner Devlin's work that he has done for the county.

Shane Eaton: commented about overall experience with the commission concerning wind turbines.

3:30 p.m. Terra Burman Eastern Plains Economic Development Council, would like to ask if the EPEDC could apply for a grant on behalf of Prairie County? This is a 5-year grant and will not cost the county money. She explained how this grant would benefit prairie county and surrounding counties. There would be a MOU between EPEDC and the county. Commissioners agreed to have her bring a MOU for them to discuss.

Terra discussed the option of an opportunity zone, which Prairie County is eligible. The commission would have to give the okay to apply for this opportunity zone. She explained the details concerning the program and would need to know by July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

3:44 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to join the Montana opportunity zone, seconded by Commissioner Keltner open for discussion, no vote motion died.

Tara Burman also ask about the Milwaukee Bridge Match, through commerce. There was a discussion on the process of repairing the bridge, funding, etc.

3:59 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign the Designation of Depository for Direct Deposit of MCEP funds for Milwaukee bridge, second by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passes.

4:05 p.m. Commissioners will be selecting a zoning commission for the Last Best Place Zoning District. Commissioners will select the individuals by a scoring system to establish the members of the zoning commission from within the district.

Norma Peabody, her understanding was there would not be a zoning commission. It would just be made up of district people.

Shane Eaton, are there only going to be 4 members?

Commissioner Devlin explained that there would be 2 elected officials as well.

Election Administrator Shari Robertson will review the outcomes of the people voted on.

Commissioners Devlin and Keltner read aloud the letters received of interest for the zoning commission.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept Clint Grue and Dan Pike as the two representatives from the district to serve on the zoning commission, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

Commissioner Delvin made a motion to appoint clerk & recorder Shari Robertson and Garret Lapp County Treasurer, seconded by Commissioner Keltner “open to discussion” in favor Commissioner Devlin, Commissioner Keltner, not in favor Commissioner Teske.

Commissioner Teske made a motion to amend the motion to include Tylene Eaton, no second motion fails.

Commissioner Teske said it would make sense to have Tylene Eaton on board since she is the county health nurse.

Aaron Martinson: commented on safety, health, and welfare, is what we formed this over.

Commissioner Teske spoke about what has happened over the last few years, that has created distrust within the commission. We need to change direction and go with the citizens.

Commission Keltner said she feels that Tylene is a good source of information, she gives facts as she aids us as a public citizen.

Garrett Lapp declined to be on the Last Best Place Zoning Commission.

Commissioner Devlin made a motion to cancel previous motion to put Garrett Lapp County Treasurer as a member of the zoning commission, leaving Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson on the zoning commission, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

4:30 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to appoint Tylene Eaton as county health nurse to the Last Best Place zoning district zoning commission, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

4:34 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026

Christine W. Keltner  
Christine, Keltner Commissioner

ATTEST: Shari Robertson  
Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder