

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

March 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 (No Public Comment).

9:12 a.m. Road Supervisor Todd Henry joined the meeting.

Commissioner Devlin announced an addition to the agenda 2:30 p.m. adding Election Administrator Shari Robertson to talk to commissioners about unopposed election races.

Commissioner Devlin had a meeting about the 33 by 33 which is a governor initiative to have 33% of our food grown within Montana by 2033. It is currently at 7%, and in 1950's 73% were produced locally.

9:32 a.m. Supervisor Henry explained they are down to three people in the department, and the tree in Fallon has been taken down and removed.

Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson spoke to the commission about how retired employee's come back to work still must fill out new paperwork. Just making sure all new hires have correct paperwork. Also talked about the process of hiring Chris Koppenhaver as an employee and contracting his equipment if needed. It's best to have him as an employee in case he uses county equipment. There was discussion of when a contract is needed for county projects, what dollar amount initiate contracts, bids etc.

There was discussion on wages for temp workers, who have experience, should be at put at a higher rate than new hires. Brief discussion on a possible road levy for the general election that would be 30 mills to cover the road department's expenses. The roads currently are in good shape this year. Discussed the cost associated with crushing gravel for the county, and mobilization costs are the larger expense.

10:15 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign zoning compliance with Open Pit Mining Act for the Noris gravel pit, seconded by commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:16 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from February 27th, 2026, commissioners meeting.

10:38 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 27th, 2026, commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:38 a.m. Sheriff Keifer would like the county to determine who is the fire warden, there are minutes showing that Dewight Tague is the current fire Warden, and he is willing to do it, and I think he should be. There needs to be a resolution showing who Fire Warden is. There are different contracts being pushed that Keifer is against. The fire warden is more of a prevention role. There are many training courses that are needed to be the fire warden, and they do go to fires same as the sheriffs office.

10:50 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from the March 2nd, 2026, public hearing for the Last Best Place Zoning District.

11:04 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 2nd public hearing for the Last Best Place Zoning District as corrected, seconded Commissioner Devlin, “all in favor”, motion passed.

11:05 a.m. Commissioners read a letter from the justice of the peace explaining that she has hired a clerk for her office.

11:22 a.m. Commissioners reviewed correspondence concerning Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request and how to handle once requested. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson explained time restraints, as well as what the fees there are with FOIA requests. We have to respond, but not sure how to respond to a current request that is very complicated.

11:42 a.m. Commissioner Devlin called the Commissioner of Political Practices to ask questions concerning the FOIA request.

11:45 a.m. Commissioners reviewed and made decisions on the MACo Health Care Trust contribution & eligibility form for 2026.

11:50 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the changes with the county contribution of \$1087, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

12:00 p.m. Lunch break

Road Supervisor Todd Henry joined the meeting with Brandon Duffy.

1:00 p.m. Brandon Duffy Great West Engineering to update the commissioners on bridges 4084 and highway 340 as well as the on-call contract. The highway 340 bridge has been submitted to MDOT as far as plains and culvert design. The estimated cost for the box culvert would be \$340,000.00. He went over the process of replacing the culvert with detour at the bridge. Should go out to bid late April 2026 with an anticipated end date of October 1, 2026.

Brandon explained that bridge 4084 has a steep angle, and they are still looking at possible culvert/pipe bridge designs, because it goes over Buffalo Rapids ditch. He also went over the types of material that could be used for replacement. The estimated price of repair currently is \$305,000.00. Repairs will not happen until after the ditch is closed in October.

Supervisor Henry asked the commissioner if they are okay with grading the track at the school. They all supported him going over to do that.

1:10 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to extend the on-call contract with Great West Engineering from May 2025 to May 2026, seconded by Commissioner Teskes, “all in favor” motion passed.

1:50 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided claims for the commissioners to sign and review.

Prairie County Voucher # 1104 \$19,282.14

Prairie County Voucher # 1105 \$7,554.48

Journal Adjustments # 327 and 302

1:55 p.m. Commissioners reviewed the Meals on Wheels contract, which will be \$22 per day for Dawn Olson.

2:00 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to approve the contract for Meals on Wheels for Dawn Olson “Independent Contractor Agreement Home Delivered Meals Delivery”, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, “all in favor” motion passed.

2:10 p.m. Treasurer Garrett Lapp provided the commissioners with a copy of the treasurer's report. Then provided them with an Investment Authorization Report.

2:25 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the Treasures Investment Report, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

2:25 p.m. Public Service Commissioner Chris Gallus phoned into the meeting to discuss FOIA request. In terms of responding to the FOIA request, it's simple for us, but the county attorney could help evaluate it more. We usually accept the request, determine how extensive it is, and the cost to the agency, and a letter goes back to the requester, that states how much time and money it will cost. Must consider privacy issues when giving out requested information, private information must be redacted.

2:50 p.m. Election Administrator Shari Robertson spoke with the commissioners about canceling local races on the Primary ballot that are running unopposed, so they don't show up on the ballot.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment (no public comment)

3:01 p.m. Commissioners worked on letters to Last Best Place Zoning District Landowners, for creation of zoning commission.

3:30 p.m. Discussion of creating a 250th anniversary celebration committee. Discussion of who would be good to have on the committee.

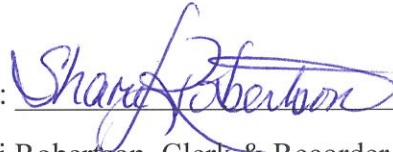
4:00 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

Signed this 18th day of March 2026



Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder