

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

March 18th, 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

Rolane Christopherson: The regulations in the district could have an impact on my land, and I ask that you do a survey, because my property is right next to the zoning district. Just to confirm that the regulations within the district will not have an effect on my property, which is outside the district?

Commissioner Teske said that the regulations are only in effect within the district's boundaries.

Commissioner Devlin said they would ask the question, to confirm.

9:30 a.m. Road Supervisor Todd Henry joined the meeting. Discussion on the gravel pit on Cabin Creek and the road going out to it, which is on BLM. Supervisor Henry said he would maintain the road if BLM put it in writing that he can. There was a brief discussion on hiring and retaining employees. There was discussion on bi-weekly payroll, and conversation of how difficult it would be to do payroll twice a month. Aria Walters ask: have you looked at any project management tools to help utilize your time more effectively and help optimize your time?

10:12 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from the March 11th, 2026, commissioners meeting.

10:25 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the March 11th, 2026, commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:25 a.m. Discussion about cemetery caretaker that was missed on the last agenda.

10:30 a.m. Discussion on the Next Best Place Zoning District, the creation of the zoning commission is part of the process, and the regulations requested by the petition will be included in the adoption of the district.

10:40 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to sign and accept the "Employee Eligibility form from MACo, which also grandfathers in county employee Travis Lacquement", seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:45 a.m. Commissioners discussed the final copy of the County Growth Policy. Commissioner Teske commented that on page 21, weather should be more updated, currently up to 2015. Page 48 says the sheriff is fire warden needs updated because Dwight Tague is the fire warden.

10:55 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to approve the updated version of the growth policy with changes, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, “all in favor” motion passed.

10:55 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson spoke with the commission about the March 26th commissioners meeting. The meeting will be cancelled for the week; there will be a commissioner in to sign and approve payroll. Election judge training will be March 31st.

11:20 a.m. Dale Hellman spoke to the commission about the missed agenda item from the March 11th, 2026, meeting. This is conducted as old business: The cemetery board approved Jessica Thomason as the caretaker and wants the commission to confirm it. Commissioner Keltner called Larry Bond to come in and speak to the commission.

11:27 a.m. Commissioner Devlin read Resolution 26-21.

11:30 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to approve and pass Resolution 26-21 A Resolution Cancelling the June 4, 2026, Primary Election of certain County Officers and moving them forward to appear on the general ballot, seconded by Commissioner Keltner “all in favor” motion passed.

11:43 a.m. Commissioner Devlin read Resolution 26-22.

11:45 a.m. Commissioner Keltner to pass and approve Resolution 26-22 Appointing Dwight Tague as Prairie County Fire Warden”, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

12:00 p.m. Board of Health Meeting.

12:10 p.m. Board meeting began with introductions.

Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from December 17th, 2025, board of health meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

Chip Mintz county health officer provided updates on influenza, 12,000 cases statewide, sporadic within the county. He explained other viruses in the state and went over those statistics. He also explained West Nile virus is spread by mosquitoes, birds etc. Stay inside around dusk and wear spray with deet in it.

Tobacco Prevention makes posts on Facebook every week and an article in the Terry Tribune. There are tobacco sales compliance checks going on in Montana. Working with the school to have a presentation done there.

Tylene Eaton the public health nurse, only two positive flu cases. Total of 43 flu shots for this season. She went over specimen transport policy. She recently went to Terry school and went over oral activities injuries. Gave information on preventive measures such as mouth guards. She also gave the school report. Next Meeting June 17th, 2026.

12:40 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the Board of Health meeting, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, “all in favor” motion passed.

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

Prairie County Voucher # 1107 \$627.91

Prairie County Voucher # 1106 \$10,858.05

1:15 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to approve “RM88 for records that have met their retention dates according to Montana Code 7-5-2132, for death/birth certificates requests”, seconded by Commissioner Teske “all in favor” motion passed.

Larry Bond attended the meeting to speak with the commissioners about hiring a caretaker for the cemetery board. The commissioners suggested Jessica Thomason for the position. Larry says Jessica has a full-time job.

Commissioner Devlin called Jessica Thomason about the caretaker position at the cemetery and told her she had the position.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to hire Jessica Thomason as the caretaker for the cemetery, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, “all in favor” motion passed. A motion to amend the motion to include that the pay would be \$19 per hour, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

2:00 p.m. Weed board members Harold Gaub, Sharla Sackman, Aaron Martinson, and Garrett Lapp joined the meeting. Sharla went over budgeting items for hiring seasonal workers and discussion on wages for seasonal and coordinator. Discussed budgeting for restroom and septic for the weed shop. Travis Lacquement gave update on equipment for the spraying season. Sharla explained that road spraying was extended out to go to diamond ring overpass to the bad route rest area on interstate 90. BLM has a excess of chemical that can be used this year on BLM lands. The weed board gave a copy of the boards new bi-laws that the weed board has approved, for the commissioners to have on the next agenda.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment.

Commissioner Devlin spoke about the approval of the “Last Best Place Zoning District, that was presented” and explained that the zoning commission will not make any major changes to regulations.

Shane Eaton: commented on the zoning district, explaining the planning and zoning commission recommendations, should have happened before certifying the signatures. When you created the district, you created everything, all the regulations and maps that were presented were passed.

There was discussion about the process, going forward and what will happen with the zoning commission.

Commissioner Teske: Explained what he understood was passed through the resolution for the district.

Shane explained that he received information from the county attorney that no regulations have been put into place. We would like to confirm that the regulations were approved on March 2nd and are in effect today.

Commissioner Devlin the zoning committee to determine how the district will be run, for permits, variances, costs etc.

Rob Reukauf: it was my understanding that the zoning district and regulations were passed. You want to form a zoning commission. That would be for future projects and approvals. You don't need one for this zoning commission.

Dan Pike, regulations should be solid and additions should be the only things allowed.

Shane Eaton: Resolution 26-19 and 26-20 resolutions approved the signatures and the petition.

Commissioner Teske made a motion that resolution 26-20 approved the general provisions of the district, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, discussion, "All in favor" Commissioner Devlin and Teske are in favor, and Commissioner Keltner not in favor.

Aaron Martinson explained he would like to see someone who is a health official to be on the zoning commission for Last Best Place Zoning commission.

Commissioner Teske commented that the commission is made up of 5 people, 3 commissioners 2 from the district, and may have others.

Dan Pike: What is the status of this lawsuit, do we have a budget and why are we continuing?

Commissioner Devlin: we are continuing because a petition cannot create an ordinance.

Ric Holden: spoke about what happened in Dawson County, and suggested the commission drop their lawsuit. What is on their ballot is what would have been on ours.

More discussion back and forth about the lawsuit and the costs to the citizens of Prairie County.

Joylynn Millwright: Commented about County Attorney Dan Rice on the Brown case, I would like to ask that he is removed from county attorney, and he recuse himself.

There was discussion about the current lawsuit and what brought it on and if it could be withdrawn. Have a vote and withdraw the lawsuit and see what the people want and then go from there.

Commissioner Teske made a motion to withdraw the lawsuit from Shane Eaton, no second, motion dies. Commissioner Keltner wants more time for discovery, would like a few days to speak with the attorney.

Norma, we have been working on this for over 2.5 years, and McCone County took 8 months, we are tired of all this.

Kay Hoffer would agree to what they are saying, both sides and that you should just withdraw the lawsuit.

County Commissioners agreed to a meeting at 1:00 p.m. Saturday March 21st, 2026, for a special meeting concerning the current lawsuit.

3:50 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

Signed this 1st day of April 2026

Christine W Keltner

Christine Keltner, Commissioner

ATTEST: _____

Shari Robertson

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder

By: Laney M Smith

Prairie County Board of Health Working Lunch Meeting Agenda

March 18th, 2026
12:00pm

Prairie County Courthouse

- I. **Call to order**
- II. **Approval of minutes from 12-17-2025**
- III. **Special Presentation –None**
- IV. **Health Officer Report – Chip Mintz**
 - Flu Season Update
 - Coronavirus (COVID) Update
 - Other Communicable Disease Update
 - Other
- V. **Other Reports**
 - a) **Sanitarian** – Brant Gordon
 - b) **Tobacco Prevention**—Regional Tobacco Prevention Specialist
 - c) **Public Health** – Tylene Eaton
 - Flu Update
 - Lab Specimen Transport Protocol
 - Oral Injuries Activity Report held January 22nd
 - Highly Infectious Communicable Disease TTX held March 4th
 - Other Updates
 - d) **School**—Megan Murrell (Supt.)

Other Business

 - a) Other Business
 - b) Next Meeting Date