

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

February 27<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 and call to order. Public Comment

Joylynn Milwright: please drop the lawsuit against the Eaton's.

Dan Pike: Did the county just sue or add Glendive Wind LLC to the lawsuit? The suit should be dropped and allow the citizens to vote on the issue.

Commissioner Teske "I was shocked about the lawsuit". There is more litigation going on and I am concerned.

Dan Pike: Was there a vote about suing the citizens?

Commissioner Devlin, there was a vote in closed session.

Commissioner Teske: explained his position on the petition and lawsuits.

Commissioner Keltner: The question came forward about who hired the attorney, there was non given so the Eaton's were listed.

Commissioner Devlin: He explained what process brought the lawsuit forward.

Cheryl Morrison: There have been citizens that have wanted to connect with each of the commissioners separately to address their concerns. We tell them to call the commissioners. There are often comments about the road, and there are people who would like face to face.

Norma Peabody: people are afraid to come in. There are people who want their names off contracts and are being harassed by NextEra. I don't hate anyone, I am hurt that they don't see the problems with them.

Commissioner Devlin, explained where the contracts for NextEra came from, and how it was brought to the attention of the commission.

Kay Hoffer: (Comment provided by Joylynn Millwright) If you are afraid to come in, you can email, send a letter to one or all the commissioners.

Commissioner Teske: I have received phone calls and went to other counties' commissioners' meetings to get an idea of what others are doing. People need to hear and we can't keep secrets. He spoke about the resolutions for the "Last Best Place" zoning district.

Aaron Martinson: he read a facebook post from May 22, 2020, that Todd Devlin created. Commissioner Devlin made the decision to remove Todd Tibbets from the Land Planning Board. My question is, where are the standards if the rest of the boards have standards?

Commissioner Devlin: explained that there was a post on facebook about marks in the right a way. Todd Tibbets responded and recommended removing those marks to provide bad data for NextEra.

There was more conversation about what happened leading up to the removal of Todd Tibbets.

Commissioner Teske: He gave examples of his time on Montana DEQ and septic system permits. A government working with people and helping people is the best practice.

Reene Pirtz: We ask lots of questions and seldom get answers except from commissioner Teske. She explained what led to the removal of Mr. Tibbets from the Land Planning Board. Where was this done and when was it done? Where are the minutes showing this decision? She explained the Land Planning Board process for the growth policy. She also spoke about litigation threats from NextEra. She is frustrated with the process being done by the commission. Why are you suing the citizens? You Commissioner Devlin should resign or step down from chair. There are many bad decisions being made by the commission. There was no meeting for Todd Tibbets or suing Eaton's or adding Glendive Wind LLC. The county should get this done.

No Road discussion continuing Public Comment.

Aaron Martinson: did we lose another member of the road department? Commissioner Teske explained that one employe took a job elsewhere.

Commissioner Teske: explained that replacing the Land Planning Board member, there were three applications, and I didn't see them. I had to vote no on the new member because I was not well informed.

Kay Hoffer: (Comment provided by Joylynn Millwright): concerning the markers from NextEra, it says it was an easement on private property, so if the property owner removed them that is their right, and Todd Tibbets has a right to his opinion. NextEra is not a utility company, and the owner may remove it. If a person is removed it should be done during a public meeting.

Mary Elisabeth Grue: I would like to invite you (commissioners) to the 120 year old ranch in April when we are calving. We have an open range, and we stand to lose the ranch due to the traffic through the middle of the road as proposed by NextEra.

Dan Pike: Are discussions with NextEra ongoing? There are road agreements etc on the county website.

Commissioner Devlin explained that agreements are drafts, that the road agreement will be the counties agreements and terms. There have not been conversations with NextEra.

Arron Martinson: He believes the county attorney had said during litigations all conversations are stopped during litigation. So, there should be no conversations with NextEra and Glendive Wind LLC.

Kay Hoffer: (Comment provided by Joylynn Millwright): Why didn't Todd Tibbetts receive a warning?

Commissioner Keltner explained he had been warned.

Arron Martinson: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Commissioner meeting it was said that if we get the 60% on the petition it was a done deal.

Commissioner Devlin: We need to clarify that the 60% is to show that over 60% of the landowners signed the petition. And the vote is to determine that the signatures are at least 60%.

Dan Pike: Moving forward we have 100% participation; will I get sued?

Commissioner Devlin: Its one of the findings that 100% of the landowners signed it.

Tara Dupy and County Attorney Dan Rice on the phone. Do county commissioners have any questions regarding the documents forwarded to the commissioners?

Commissioner Teske: Why was Glendive Wind LLC added.

Necessary party under rule 19 of Montana civil procedure. We have filed, and because there is a rule for all necessary parties to be joined in the lawsuit.

Tara Dupy: I will not answer public questions; I represent the Commissioners.

Dan Pike: Commissioner Teske, why is it being expanded to include content.

Tara Dupy: The lawsuit is not about petition but the ordinance. It is for the ordinance of the ballet initiative not the type 1 zoning.

Commissioner Devlin: if no one is registered in your county you can appoint an attorney.

Commissioner Teske: Other counties in our state do not have staff attorneys they contract. I think we could hire that out a lot cheaper than an appointment. We are paid for 9 days a month and its a lot more than that.

There was a conversation about doing something for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country.

Chely Chole Harrington: Impact fee that would be paid, is it a one-time payment? Looking down the road, what happens when the ground can't be used any longer due to forever chemicals? Are we looking to the future?

11:05 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Teske made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, commissioners meeting as corrected, second by commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

Question was ask what the purpose of the lawsuit was?

Commissioner Devlin explained that the ordinance to zone was not lawful through a petition.

Discussion on other options outside of an elected county attorney. Hiring outside legal would reduce cost to the county and provide funds for other areas in the county.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Justice of the Peace Mary Bucher, to speak about getting an clerk for her office. In general a clerk gets paid \$16.50 per hour, and would work a few hours a month, and vacation etc. If a clerk has a court case to work on, the sentencing would not happen until Mary returns from time off.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion for the Justice of the Peace to hire a clerk for her office, seconded by commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

Commissioners reviewed resolutions for the "Last Best Place Initiated Zoning District".

2:15 p.m. Pam Walling with MACo Health Care Trust, to go over the renewal plan. Employee's are paying about 12% of the health care cost and MACo is covering 88%, in the private sector employees are paying closer to 22%. Top chronic conditions were reported as Hypertension, lower back pain, hyperlipidemia, and depression. The insurance covers telehealth services, and it takes about 8 minutes to speak to a doctor, so could reduce a trip to the doctor's office.

MACo Health Care Trust is a pool among members, and the amount collected from Prairie County would not cover the cost of health care, but because we are in a pool, the pool covers the cost. The renewal rate this year is a 5% increase, down from the 9.8% increase in 2025. Dental, vision and life rates have no increase this year. Pam went over the different plans available for the county, and what the benefits are for each plan and costs.

3:04 p.m. Public Comment:

Aaron Martinson: call Joe Sharbono commissioner in Dawson county.

Todd Tibbetts: commented about federal ground in the county and doesn't bring in tax dollars. You need to be mindful on what you spend the taxpayer money. Litigation and outside legal and suing citizens. Before making large decisions on spending tax money and really think about what the citizens want money to spend on.

Reene Pirtz: Please look into a part time attorney that is contracted out.

Commissioner Teske: Public comments have been talked about being just communication from the public. Conversations must happen between the public and between the commissioners.

Reene Pirtz: Land planning board works together well and often discuss different views. When a member was removed from that board, no one knew. It was at very least not done right.

Commissioner Devlin explained that the ordinance is designed to zone, and there are only two ways you can zone type 1 and type 2 zoning. It was determined to have a jurisdiction decision.

Steve Tibbetts: Commented about his experience with the commission and the road departments. Where comments were made and not fulfilled. There is a history of bad decisions.

3:35 p.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson provided the commissioners with payroll to review and sign.

Prairie County Voucher # 1098 \$68,449.94

Prairie County Voucher # 1099 \$2,351.00

Prairie County Voucher # 1100 \$18,749.98

Prairie County Voucher # 1101 \$17,923.78

Prairie County Voucher # 1102 \$31,653.34

Prairie County Voucher # 10 \$6,597.76

The Commissioners reviewed and signed claims.

Prairie County Voucher # 1103 \$943.55


Prairie County Voucher # 1096 \$12,989.09

Prairie County Voucher # 1097 \$4,455.31

4:04 p.m. Commissioner Teske left the meeting.

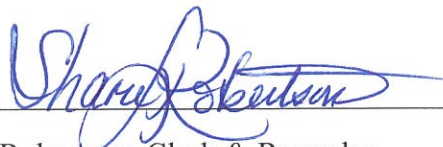
4:25 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Devlin “all in favor” motion passed.

Signed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026



Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder