

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 15th, 2026

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

www.prairiecounty.org

Prairie County Board of Commissioners, Christine Keltner and Dennis Teske met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. Commission Devlin not in attendance. In attendance Administrative Assistant Harry McNall.

9:00 a.m. Call to order. Pledge of allegiance, public comment.

Karen Rauch the senior center is working on getting a paint job done on the building due to hail. She is asking if she can paint the building as an employee of the county. She thinks it could be done with about 5 gallons of paint and her wages. She already discussed with the senior center board, and they are okay with this. Commissioner Keltner will follow up with the county attorney to confirm she can do that.

Karen also ask about vacation hours and sick leave. Is there possible to get a payout on it? Ask her to speak to clerk & recorder Shari Robertson.

9:25 a.m. Road Supervisor Todd Henry joined the meeting. Commissioner Teske had ask if Ross Hoffer might be interested in grading? Supervisor Henry said he has ask before and he declined. Commissioner Teske will follow up with Ross Hoffer.

Supervisor Henry looked at a pickup in a federal surplus sale in Helena and looks good, everything works, overall better than many he has seen. The pickup would be \$10,900.00.

9:32 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to purchase a 2010 Dodge 2500 Gas 4 door pickup truck with 93,604 miles, last four of VIN 0820 for \$10,900.00 seconded by Commissioner Keltner "all in favor" motion passed.

Commissioner Keltner suggested selling one of the old pickups to the fairgrounds for \$2000.00 in the fall.

Discussion on using county equipment out at the cemetery to move rock and other materials around, when the road department is not using them. Also discussed future purchase of a sander for the road department. Road Supervisor Henry discussed other equipment that might be good to purchase in the future through surplus.

10:00 a.m. The commission joined a video conference with Jeff Keys, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), to discuss updates on the Milwaukee Bridge project. Jeff went over the invitation for bids which will start soon, and he will be advertising starting the last week of May. There are permits we are waiting on, DNRC land use license, which requires the commission to move forward with an easement permit application. Army core of engineers 404 permit, which

we are waiting on. Then we can go out to bid, and hopefully by June everything will be moving forward. Next update will be June 15th, 2026.

10:45 a.m. Commissioner Teske spoke with Aaron Kneelend about the DNRC easement application. The application has to be a hard copy, so it is an easement for the bridge across the Yellowstone River.

11:00 a.m. Celia Herbel with Senator Sheehy's office to discuss county needs. Road Supervisor Todd Henery and County Sheriff Lewis joined the meeting. Celia wanted to follow up with the commissioners about the land transfer request with BLM. Commissioner Teske explained many of the concerns with the free use permit process, and some of the conversations between BLM, Department of Interior etc, concerning the process of transferring titles, and getting free use permits for gravel.

Sheriff Lewis discussed the Congressionally Discussed Spending (CDS) grant and how complicated it has become, even though they have been awarded the grant already, its going to be a few months down the road before the money actually shows up to the county. He also explained the importance of gravel in road safety, that it is vital that roads have gravel in order to provide safe travel for citizens.

11:35 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from April 1st, 2026, commissioner meeting.

11:45 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the April 1st, 2026, commissioner meeting minutes as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Kelnter, "all in favor" motion passed.

11:46 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept and sign the Stahly Engineering & Associates, Professional Service Agreement for 2026, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

11:49 a.m. Meeting adjourned till 1p.m.

1:12 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided the commissioners with claims to sign and review.

Prairie County Voucher # 1115 \$70,824.15

Prairie County Voucher # 1116 \$6,441.68

1:30 p.m. Discussion on 250th county wide celebration committee. Mayor Rolane Christopherson said the city is working on fireworks with the volunteer fire department.

Joe Lewis President of Terry Roping Club ask what is the plan, doing something different or together for the 4th of July roping clubs plans?

Cheryl Morrison discussed music, food, etc that could work within other activities that are already planned for the 4th of July.

Jody Haidle, Allison Kay Burnard also joined the discussion of activities going on. Suggestions of breakfast or parades. Jody thought it would be good to do more than just a one-day event, possibly other things throughout the week. Maybe do some kids art etc, that could be displayed

at store fronts in Terry. Sheriff Lewis suggested blank yard signs that kids could paint and put up throughout the town.

Donation funds will be put into a separate line in the general fund (1000).

2:00 p.m. County Treasurer Garrett Lapp provided the commissioners with the investment authorization report. He explained that the auditors had a balance added to the general fund to account for money that has been in the payroll account in the amount of \$4100.38.

Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the Treasures Investment Authorization Report for March, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

Fair board members Sharla Sackman, Aaron Martinson, Travis Choat and Tom Pisk: The fair theme will be Patriots and Prairies to tie into the 250th celebration. The fair board is considering bidding on the fair stage that is in Smith Auction in miles city. The repairs would be 3-5,000 to make it useable as a stage for the fairgrounds. There is potential to rent for other events.

2:22 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to allow the fair board to bid up to \$10,000.00 at the smith auction, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

Sharla gave the commissioners a draft of the capital improvement plan for the fairgrounds. The fair board would like to have a shared vehicle to use with another department. Discussion of using county grader for building up track during the fair etc.

2:34 p.m. Public Health Nurse Tylene Eaton updated the commission that she was awarded \$3000 of the mini grant. She will administer the grant funds, but others will carry out the activities. Discussion of where in the budget this would be assigned.

2:42 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to allow Tylene Eaton to use the BOLD mini grant of \$3000.00, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

Tylene Eaton also spoke about the DPHHS master county contract review, to determine what all is needed in this contract. She has forwarded it on to the county attorney to review. There were several concerns about the contract that need further review.

3:30 p.m. Clerk & Recorder/Election Administrator/District Court Shari Robertson joined the meeting.

Shari reviewed with the commissioners the findings of the audit in the Clerk & Records Office, it had three issues that will always be on our audits due to the size of the county. There were many positive comments from the auditors and overall, we are doing a great job. The audits are expensive, but they have helped us get the county to where it is today. The auditors answer questions year-round and don't charge for that support.

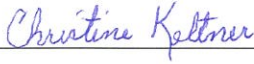
Shari reminded the commissioners that the election is June 2nd, audit June 10th, and Canvass June 11th. All election judges have been certified and trained.

3:53 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to approve the election judges, audit judges, and support staff for the election, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.


Shari provided an update about the district courts case, that has been delayed again due to the supreme court hearing.

4:03 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keltner “all in favor” motion passed.

Signed this 29th day of April 2026



Christine Keltner, Commissioner

ATTEST 

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder