

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 1st, 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. Pledge of allegiance and call to order. Public Comment

Reene Pirtz: Commented on Commissioner Devlin's declaration, she believes it is full of misinformation and produces misconduct. She will provide copies of the paperwork she spoke about. Believe there was intentional miss leading information on past agendas, concerning the county lawsuit. The public didn't know what ordinance was being discussed. Spoke about other concerns within the document she was referring to, she believes they are full of lies. Commented at length over road approach permits and other permits for the development of the wind project. Overall, she believes commission Devlin is not being truthful and honest. Commented about the March 21st meeting when he walked out of the meeting, and thinks the commission is the one that is hostile towards the people, not the other way around. Also commented about County Attorney Dan Rice and being on the ballot. In her opinion commissioner Devlin has sold out the community, and much more. A recall will happen to Commission Devlin unless the lawsuit is dropped. In closing I am asking you to drop the lawsuit and approve the Last Best Place regulations. She submitted all documents she referred to in her comments (Exhibit A).

Commissioner Teske spoke about the approaches requests that were made. Commented about hiring attorney concerning the grandfather in standing for zoning. Lawsuits are not the way we should go. Dan Rice is not a resident of the county, and should not have been voted in.

Chele Cole Harrington: follow up on a question or possibilities of replacing county attorney with a different option, such as an attorney and clerk, that could be a cost saving for the county. She thinks that comments should not be taken personally, and is this lawsuit somehow being done on a personal level? Is this lawsuit serving the other residents of the county? I have not seen hostility, but rather passion about the community concerning the commissioners' meeting. I see more people are united concerning the county rather than division.

9:45 a.m. Commissioners discussed road department. There is a vehicle in Helena that the road department could consider for purchase. Road Supervisor Todd Henry is in Great falls at Montana County Road Supervisor (MACR) and they will ask him to go by and look at the vehicle.

Concerning roads, there is a tree down just outside of Fallon on the hwy. There is also a very washboard section of road out cabin creek that needs attention.

10:00 a.m. Discussion on county involvement in the Miles City job fair. Discussed rates for milage, cost of the event and wages of those who go. Over the past few years, we have received no resumes or applications as a result of the job fair. Commissioners decided not to participate in the job fair this year.

10:28 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from March 18th, 2026, commissioners meeting.

10:36 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the minutes from March 18th, 2026, commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:44 a.m. Discussion on the county Growth Policy. Moving the discussion of resolution for the growth policy until between 2-3p.m. this afternoon.

10:48 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the Weed Board bi-Laws as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:49 a.m. Commissioner Keltner explained she had been told there was no formal opening of the meeting March 21st, 2026. Commissioner Teske explained all commissioners were here and it was a public meeting. Administrative assistant Harry McNall commented that many commissioner meetings have not had an official call to order, that it is included in the minutes because of how it was printed on the agenda, and he understood that the pledge was the start of the meeting.

10:53 a.m. The minutes from the March 21st special meeting were taken, because the meeting was not called to order, the minutes are not read or approved on April 1st, 2026. The minutes will be attached as Exhibit B.

11:00 a.m. Commissioners reviewed invoices from Great West Engineering.

11:09 a.m. Commissioner Keltner will sign the Great West Engineering Extension Agreement.

11:12 a.m. Commissioner Meeting adjourned until 1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided the commissioners with claims, payroll and journal adjustments to sign and review. Checks 49438-49477

Payroll

Prairie County Voucher # 1112 \$32,719.39

Prairie County Voucher # 11 \$7,587.06

Prairie County Voucher # 1090 \$7,276.16

Prairie County Voucher # 1109 \$16,919.30

Prairie County Voucher # 1110 \$2,098.00

Prairie County Voucher # 1111 \$16,621.13

Prairie County Voucher # 1108 \$62,902.06

Claims

Prairie County Voucher # 1113 \$21,040.36

Prairie County Voucher # 1114 \$4,104.79

1:28 p.m. Bump and Run wrote check # 1100 \$463.75

Journal Adjustment: 346, 347, 348, 349

2:00 p.m. Doug Rein with the Terry TV board to speak to the commission about getting the TV Board back on the tax rolls. Recently the TV board spent money on equipment to improve the tv reception that includes 8 channels. But the upgrade has depleted their funds, with no new funds coming in. County Attorney Dan Rice spoke with Doug about the process going forward. There should be a public hearing to get the TV Board back on tax rolls.

2:00 p.m. Commissioner Keltner reached out to the land planning board member Tracey Feickert Dion with two small changes in the growth policy for them to consider and update, before official passing of the growth policy.

2:25 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion with approval from the library board to appoint Laney Smith to the Library Board to replace Amber Murr, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment: Larry Bond you commissioners are doing a good job and keep doing it.

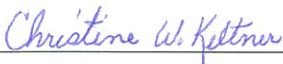
3:30 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters gave the commissioners an update on some issues within the clerk's office concerning the cemetery. The records for the cemetery have not been kept very well. There was a discussion on the maps and the logbooks for the cemetery plots. There are discrepancies on where plots are, vs where they physically are in the cemetery. Jessica Thomason discussed some of the issues within the cemetery and what might be done in the future, or currently to prepare for future expansion of the cemetery. There was discussion of digital cemetery records but it comes with a high upfront cost and it is time consuming to accomplish. There was discussion on how to go forward, how to make some changes to help in the future.

Jessica asks the commission to come out to the cemetery and walk with her; see what equipment they have. She plans on making an inventory of equipment etc. She wants the commission to have an idea of what the cemetery looks like currently. The water system hopefully will be automatic system, instead of manually having to turn on/off water.

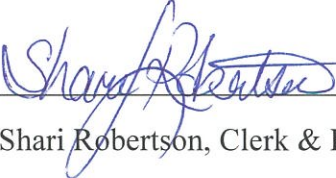
4:00 p.m. Commissioners went to cemetery for a field review. Jessica went over current equipment, tools etc, and explained the need for more tools and inventory lists. Showed some of the issues with plot layouts etc. She just wanted the commission to have a visual of what is currently there and how some minor changes could improve future operations.

4:55 p.m. Commissioners returned to the courthouse, Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by commissioner Keltner "all in favor" motion passed.

Signed this 15th day of April 2026



Christine Keltner, Commissioner

ATTEST: 

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder