

**Commission Proceedings**  
**04-10-2023**

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 10, 2023, in the Carter County Commission Board Meeting Room of the Carter County Courthouse at 214 Park Street in Ekalaka, Montana. Rod Tauck, Chairman Mike Watkins, Vice Chairman and Pamela Castleberry, member were present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Rod Tauck. There was no public comment.

The commission reviewed and discussed emails and correspondence.

Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 31, 2023 and April 03, 2023. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. Commissioner Castleberry asked for an update on the discussion after the meeting adjourned for lunch regarding the procedure required to pay employee premium for health insurance based on hours worked. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the special Executive session minutes from March 31, 2023. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Greg Benjamin of Stahly Engineering called into the meeting with information about the hospital generator upgrade. Greg has not garnered a second peer review and requested the commission look into other engineering firms in closer proximity of The Ekalaka hospital project that may be available for a peer review.

Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright joined the meeting.

The Commission placed a call to Brett Dorak regarding the Coyote Control Program and left a message.

Attorney Corbit Harrington joined the meeting.

Commissioner Castleberry has had constituent bring to her attention the need for snow fence on Highway 7 and requested the Commissioners send a letter of request for the snow fence to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT).

County Treasurer Jesi Pierson stepped into the meeting to present the Treasurers report. Journal Voucher L100 1/01 – 03/31 2023, investment, securities report and cash report. Jesi left the meeting.

Custer National Forest, Sioux Ranger District Ranger Kurt Hansen and Denise Zolnoski, Range Technician joined the meeting with updated 5-year In-kind noxious weed agreement. Commissioner Watkins made the motion to sign the agreement. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Denise requested access to the mapping of areas sprayed last season and voiced concern over the need for a Weed Department manager for Carter County so that the In-Kind agreement may continue. The data from last year's spray map was retrieved for Denise and Kurt. The Weed Board is in the process of replacing the Weed Supervisor. The commissioners are also willing to work with sub-contractors to complete as much of the spraying as possible if the need arises.

Kurt presented a Forest Service update: fire hazardous crew will be working in the area mid-summer for several weeks. The Sioux Ranger District has a fully staffed fuels department. However, the BLM Fire operation for Carter County does not have a crew boss at this time and will not be staffed.

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Attorney Corbit Harrington left the meeting.

Georgia Bruski, DES Coordinator joined the meeting. Georgia and Kurt discussed updating the Carter County Wild Land Fire Plan. The last up date was 2005 as part of the Emergency Action Plan. Georgia will look into securing funding and possibly working with the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group as DES has worked with them in the past to complete the Carter County Wild Land Fire Plan.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:00 and was called to order by Chairman Rod Tauck at 1:00 pm.

Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright presented options for a County Credit Cards. She would like check with several companies to see what they offer. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to have Judy look into credit cards for the County Departments from Stockman Bank. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

The commission received a call from Dawn Padden requesting clarification on the Durm Lane road easement. Padden's have received a letter from Ryersons' attorney. Commissioner Tauck suggested that she call Carter County Attorney Corbit Harrington with questions about the easement.

The commission reviewed and updated the Procurement Policy.

There was discussion when setting the agenda to call a meeting for personnel issues. The decision to set the meeting will be finalized at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

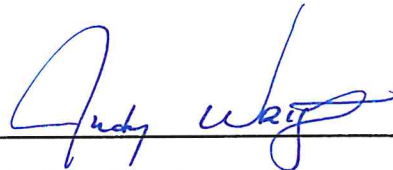
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15.

**Board of County Commissioners**

**Carter County, Montana**

  
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**Rod Tauck, Chairman**

Attest:   
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**Clerk of the Board**