

Commission Proceedings

10-16-2023

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on October 16, 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.

The Commission discussed the BLM / Denbury Snowy River Carbon Capture meeting that was held in Ekalaka on Thursday October 12, 2023. Dan and Roxie Dinstil called in to voice their concerns regarding the planned Carbon Capture and the possible effects on the County lands, water and roads. They requested that the commission send a letter to the Miles City Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office requesting to extend the comment period on the proposed plan.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp and Attorney Corbit Harrington joined the meeting for the review of the Drum Rd and Medicine Rocks Road draft petition. Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the form and content of the proposed petition allowing the changes to the easements of the Drum and Medicine Rocks Roads. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Montana Association of Counties (MACo) has retained counsel with Crowley Fleck to represent all 56 Counties in the on-going dispute regarding the calculation of statewide mill authority. Carter County Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve Resolution 10162023-01 that would authorize MACo to represent the interests of the County seeking judgement from the Montana Supreme Court regarding Statewide mills. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. there was no public comment and the motion carried.

Katie Lucas joined the meeting via phone for a follow up on the Old hospital redevelopment plans. The next steps include market research, demographics in the Western United States and financial costs for the top 4 options from the Community Engagement Report, including Senior Center, Food Bank / County Health, Rec Center and Ambulance services. Katie requested contact information needed to continue research. ADAAPTA will report back by the end of November.

Chairman Rod Tauck signed the 203-2024 Inmate medical insurance agreement with (CRS) Correctional Risk Services Inc.

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

Forest Service District Ranger Kurt Hansen joined the meeting with information on upcoming prescribed burn and the completion of approximately 300 acers of thinning contracts in the Ekalaka Hills. The Forest Service is set to redesign the culverts on Box Elder Creek. Kurt will return with documents on the Box Elder Creek culvert design and the Mcnab prescribed burn at the October 26th Commissioners meeting.

The Commission penned a letter to the Miles City BLM office requesting an extension of the comment period for the Denbury Snowy River Carbon Capture project.

Montana Extension Service Regional Department Head Larry Brencé joined the meeting to review the Fallon / Carter Extension program. There was discussion of the financial split between the Counties and the Extension as well as employee hours and duties.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

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Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana

Rod Tauck

Rod Tauck, Chairman

Attest: Judy Wright
Clerk of the Board