

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes May 1, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Liza Taylor, Travis Frey, Rick Bauman, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during portions of the meeting were Treasurer Dawn Grannis, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, HR Director Alice Grinsteinner, Road Superintendent Ken Miller, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins, Ashley Hill, Joe Grannis, Butler Machinery Representative Kasey Erickson, John Deere Representative Scott Owens, RDO Representative Jennifer Heck, Coteau Properties Representative Darren Hellman, S&R Partners represented by Greg Rahn, Lance Pfliger, Mary Rahn, Mary Rahn, Vicky Pfliger, Donna Schwab, David Schwab, John Rahn, and Jim Schwab, Interstate Engineer Matt Weeks, Ann Unterseher, Dave Farrington, and Solem Law Office representative Scott Solem.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Bauman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Taylor was absent. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the April 17, 2024, minutes as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Taylor was absent. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the April 19, 2024, special minutes as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Taylor was absent. Motion carried.

Frey moved to close the acceptance of bids on the 51<sup>ST</sup> Ave SW (Airport Road) bid letting. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Taylor was absent. Motion carried.  
9:15 a.m. Commissioner Taylor entered meeting.

Folk moved to table two Interstate Engineering bills until later in the meeting. Bauman seconded. Folk, Bauman, Frey, and Wolf voted aye. Taylor abstained. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve all remaining bills. Frey seconded. Folk, Bauman, Frey, and Wolf voted aye. Taylor abstained. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,782.30; AED EVERYWHERE \$236.00; BENCO EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$307.50; THE BEACON \$1,431.77; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,084.33; BOBCAT OF MANDAN INC. \$701.19; ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES \$3,047.10; COOGEE BEACH COMPANY \$26.60; ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC. \$2,431.30; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC. \$3,247.50; ESRI \$460.00; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOCIATION \$881.00; FASTENAL COMPANY \$16.63; FINANCIAL SUPPLY CENTER \$2,046.11; GALLS, LLC \$29.06; GRINSTEINNER, ALICE \$203.68; HAZEN STAR \$350.84; INTERSTATE ENGINEERING INC. \$106,043.58; ISTATE TRUCK CENTER \$1,538.53; MENARDS \$486.51; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$141.79; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$126.00; ND SECRETARY OF STATE \$36.00; NDSAA \$300.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$5,092.32; NEUMILLER, JEN \$179.56; NORTH DAKOTA ENVELOPE COMPANY \$1,693.58; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$4,194.87; ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC \$1,060.06; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$246.51; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$116.01; RUD PROPANE LLP \$4,225.57; SAILER, MICHELLE \$18.76;

VERIZON WIRELESS \$1,860.54; VOLK, GINGER R. \$20.70; WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE \$334.40 (CHECK #s 50273-50308) TOTAL \$145,998.20

Sheriff Terry Ternes requested approval of a letter of support for funding of two civil emergency sirens for Beulah Bay and Hazen Bay areas. This \$50,000 project will be cost shared 15% county, 75% federal and 10% state, through a state mitigation grant. Folk moved to accept the letter of support for sirens at Beulah and Hazen Bay. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Jennifer Neumiller, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator, presented the following zoning/temporary use permit:

1. Temp Use #634 issued to Arlen Krutti. Renewal of a non-farm residence to be used as a rental house, located at part of parcel 1 within SE4NE4 of Section 10 T144N R87W. Conditions include renewal through County Commissioners each year. Permit expires December 31, 2024.

Frey moved to approve temporary use permit #634. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Darren Hellman with Coteau Properties presented an amendment to the 2005 road closure reroute agreement. Folk moved to approve the amendment as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 9:49 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:57 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m., Frey moved to close the acceptance of bids for the Mercer County Highway department motor grader bid letting. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Road Superintendent Ken Miller opened all bids and once all bids are verified, will bring recommendations to the commission for approval.

Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins opened the bids for the 51<sup>ST</sup> Ave SW (Airport Road) project and once all bids are verified will bring recommendations to the commission for approval.

Miller requested permission to hire four parttime summer help positions at \$20/hour. Frey moved to approve hiring and advertising for four parttime summer help positions at \$20/hour. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Hankins stated that he had resubmitted the \$3,000 bill from the John Schield's bridge change order BRO-00390-(056) to the state for approval.

Miller is requesting to pre-approve the purchase of a truck tractor for \$39,900 if it turns out to be a good deal for the county. It was decided that a special meeting would be called if this purchase became necessary.

Miller requested approval of the gravel contract with Randy Byrum for 30,000 tons of gravel at \$16/ton. Taylor moved to approve the gravel contract with Randy Byrum for 30,000 tons of gravel at \$16/ton.

Bauman made the motion to approve the two Interstate Engineering bills as presented. Taylor seconded. Bauman, Taylor, Folk and Wolf voted aye. Frey abstained. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the gaming site authorization for the Hazen Winter Sports Association, ONC. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HR Director Alice Grinsteinner along with Sheriff Ternes informed the board about the 911 Coordinator position changes and requested approval to give Kent Roth a \$243/month raise for taking on the 911 Coordinator responsibilities and give Ashley Hill a \$1.18 per hour raise for taking on the GIS/Mapping responsibilities. Bauman moved to approve to give Kent Roth a \$243/month raise for taking on the 911 Coordinator responsibilities and give Ashley Hill a \$1.18 per hour raise for taking on the GIS/Mapping responsibilities, effective May 1, 2024. Frey seconded. Bauman, Frey, Folk, and Wolf voted aye. Taylor voted nay. Motion carried. Farrington petition to open public roads to gain access to landlocked tract of land pursuant to section 24-07-06, N.D.C.C. was discussed. States Attorney Todd Schwarz was present during this discussion. Bauman moved to deny the request to open public roads to gain access to landlocked tract of land pursuant to section 24-07-06, N.D.C.C. Folk seconded. Bauman, Folk, and Wolf voted aye. Taylor voted nay. Frey recused himself. Motion carried.

Recessed at 11:34 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:47 a.m.

HR Director Alice Grinsteinner gave an update on county wide open positions. Requested board approval to require all salary exempt employees turn in only their full days off of vacation and sick leave for payroll. Grinsteinner will provide the new documentation for these employees. Taylor moved to approve that all salary exempt employees turn in only their full days of vacation and sick leave used for the payroll period and paperwork will be provided by HR. Frey seconded. Folk recused herself. Taylor, Frey, Bauman, and Wolf voted aye. Motion carried. Grinsteinner reported an incident with an employee that had enough hours to only qualify for 50% of their health insurance and the other 50% that was taken out of her check. States Attorney Todd Schwarz recommended that the additional funds that were taken out need to be reimbursed to the employee. Folk made a motion to reimburse this employee the funds that were deducted from their paycheck, effective immediately. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. The meetings can be viewed online at [www.mercercounty.com](http://www.mercercounty.com)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gene Wolf, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carmen Reed, Auditor