

Mercer County Commission Minutes May 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners, Jamee Folk, Rick Bauman, Gene Wolf, Liza Taylor, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during portions of the meeting were Deputy Auditor Gwyn Bosch, Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Kris Schwab with Core Facility Solutions, and Tyler Schilke with Basin Electric Cooperative.

Bauman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve the May 3, 2023, minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Board reviewed bills.

Bauman moved to approve bills. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The following bills were approved for payment. ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,036.56; THE BEACON \$836.76; BOSCH, GWYN \$85.80; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$49.07; BURGE, COLIN J. \$20.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$1,015.87; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$67.60; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$32.29; CITY OF STANTON \$7,460.87; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$262,255.31; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$3,690.85; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$332.70; DACOTAH PAPER CO. \$962.60; DAKOTA AWARDS, INC. \$90.11; DAKOTA PUMP & CONTROL CO., INC. \$808.00; DAKOTA REFRIGERATION, INC. \$665.60; DUPPONG'S INC. \$4,452.81; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC. \$1,316.12; FAITH FILLED FOODS \$632.50; FARMERS UNION OIL CO. \$10,030.00; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$6.90; GO PROMO, LLC \$162.00; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$73.54; HAZEN MOTOR CO. \$1,151.24; HAZEN STAR \$1,744.25; AUTO VALUE \$510.55; HR COLLABORATIVE \$100.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,388.54; J & M HARDWARE, INC. \$139.98; J-S SANITATION \$31.00; JEEPERS SWEEPERS LLP \$2,200.00; KNUTSON, WANDA \$345.64; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$90.00; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$1,128.00; RELX INC. DBA LEXISNEXIS \$199.00; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$170.24; MILLER, ASHLEY \$77.35; BRODKORB, VICKIE \$636.71; MORITZ SPORT & MARINE \$187.00; NAPA \$1,074.03; NDACS \$50.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$63.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 911 \$849.21; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,365.00; NDSU ANIMAL SCIENCES - MIRANDA MEEHAN \$25.00; QUADIENT FINANE USA, INC. \$999.35; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$5,942.37; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$676.38; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$386.50; POSTMASTER \$68.00; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$1,045.66; REED, CARMEN \$290.40; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$1,933.44; SCHUTT, RONA \$26.73; SEIFERT, BRADLEY Q \$39.96; STERICYCLE, INC. \$40.00; STRAND, CANDY \$43.08; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$78.22; THE MEAT SHOP \$36.00; TOMCHUK, BRYAN \$60.00; UNDERGROUND VAULTS & STORAGE, INC. \$364.80; UNIFORM CENTER \$2,977.78; VAXSERVE \$372.11; VERIZON WIRELESS \$531.36; WALK-N-ROLL INC. \$34.11; WEST DAKOTA LUMBER

\$20.50; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$3,642.09; WILMINGTON TRUST NA \$400.00 (TOTAL \$334,618.44).

Cyndi Zueger, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator, presented two (2) temporary use permit renewals to the board;

- Temp Use #614 issued to Dakota Gasification Company for a Wildcat Stratigraphic Test Well located in SE4 Section 12 T145N R88W. Conditions attached to this permit are that the area disturbed must be reclaimed by the applicant and must be approved and released by the County Road Superintendent; the haul road must be approved and released by the County Road Superintendent; and weeds shall be controlled in an acceptable manner during the time this permit is in effect. Bauman made motion to approve the renewal of permit#614 for Test Well. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #615 issued to Dakota Gasification Company for a Wildcat Stratigraphic Test Well located in SE4SW4 Section 11 T145N R88W. Conditions attached to this permit are that the area disturbed must be reclaimed by the applicant and must be approved and released by the County Road Superintendent; the haul road must be approved and released by the County Road Superintendent; and weeds shall be controlled in an acceptable manner during the time this permit is in effect. Taylor made motion to approve the renewal of permit#615 for Test Well. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf made a motion to move the July 5, 2023 meeting to Thursday, July 6, due to the holiday. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Taylor made a motion to accept the April sheriff's fees in the amount of \$7,435.18. Folk seconded. All voted aye.

Folk made a motion to accept the April recorder fees in the amount of \$3,358.60. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Dawn Grannis, Treasurer requested a duplicate check warrant 54354 for \$187.50 to Robert Jasinski. Bauman made motion to approve the duplicate check for warrant 54354 for \$187.50 to Robert Jasinski. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk made a motion to approve the retail liquor license for Jimmy's Lounge and Pizza for an event at the Beulah Bay Pavilion (Beulah Bay) #459 request that will be in effect from June 10, 2023. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk made a motion to approve the request for Hazen Winter Sports to continue conducting gaming via electronic pull tab devices at the Hazen Golf Course that will be in effect from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Gwyn Bosch, Policy Committee Chairman gave the second reading of the Mercer County Policy 606(B) Inclement Weather. Board discussed this policy change. Bauman made a motion to postpone the second reading until the next meeting on June 7, 2023. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf made a motion to end the Mercer County Emergency Flood Declaration due to lack of flood threat to public and county properties. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Kris Schwab with Core Facility Solutions gave an update on the repair issues with the 1982 Trane chiller unit that is a backup unit for the law enforcement air conditioning system. Schwab will be at the June 7 meeting to discuss pricing and options to either repair or replace this unit.

Recess 10:22 a.m.

Reconvened 10:26 a.m.

Portfolios updates were given.

Auditor Reed discussed preliminary budget items such as salary raise amounts, insurance rates, and confirming the day to schedule department head budget meetings. Commissioners agreed to look at the \$1.00, \$0.75, and 3% for salary options, and chose July 25 to review budgets. Commission was informed that the health insurance rates are going up two percent on July 1, 2023. In order to alleviate this extra cost Mercer County is now part of a volunteer wellness plan that automatically gives a one percent discount on our health premiums. Information will be sent out to all employees soon.

States Attorney Schwarz presented N.D.C.C. 57-28-20.3 that states all proceeds from the public or private sale of property under this chapter must be apportioned as regular tax payments are apportioned among and within taxing districts in which the property is located, as follows: 3. If the property is sold for less than the total amount of the taxes due, the treasurer shall write tax receipts beginning with the earliest year and for as many subsequent years as the proceeds realized from the sale will satisfy, and the remainder of any unpaid general taxes or special assessments must be canceled by the board of county commissioners. The board members, states attorney, auditor and treasurer discussed the meaning of what this law means in relation to 312 Selmes Av, Stanton, ND (SS14484011505) that received a single bid of \$1,000 which the Commission accepted at the April 12, 2023, commission meeting. Bauman made a motion in pursuant to NDCC 57-28-20.3 to cancel all taxes or special assessments above the bid of \$1,000 that was accepted on the property of 312 Selmes Ave, S 85' LOTS 5&6 BLK 5 (SS14484011505) within the city limits of Stanton. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2023, 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.mercercountynd.com

Approved: _____
Travis Frey, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor