

Mercer County Commission Minutes November 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners Rick Bauman, Liza Taylor, Gene Wolf, Jamee Folk, Auditor Carmen Reed. Dan Arens of the Hazen Star was absent. Others present during portions of the meeting were Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Chief Deputy Mark Schmitt, Ashley Hill, Steven Eid, Darren Hellman and ibV Energy Partners Representative Eric Wedesky.

HB1307 Funds, October Recorder's fees of \$3,519.80, Human Resources position, and Emergency Management position were added to the agenda. Bauman made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to accept the November 1, 2023, minutes as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Board reviewed bills. Bauman made a motion to approve bills as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment. ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$1,881.00; ASKIM, CRAIG \$299.48; THE BEACON \$1,864.36; BEULAH DRUG \$5.00; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$10,525.74; C & R RADIATOR \$468.58; CITY AIR MECHANICAL, INC. \$1,336.59; CITY OF BEULAH \$92.29; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$7,378.62; CONTRA COSTA SUPERIOR COURT \$41.00; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,044.53; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$2,950.66; DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. \$323.99; DEMELLO, ZACHARY \$106.99; DETECTACHEM, INC. \$376.80; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC. \$1,200.00; LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC \$979.39; EVERSFRING INN AND SUITES \$866.70; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$28,226.00; FASTENAL COMPANY \$19.86; FITTERER OIL HAZEN LLC \$123.50; WEX BANK \$4,319.32; FREY, TRAVIS \$155.60; GALLS, LLC \$504.75; GO PROMO, LLC \$81.00; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$32.43; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$360.73; HAZEN STAR \$287.20; HEART RIVER STABLES \$4,155.00; AUTO VALU \$1,070.17; HOLIDAY INN FARGO \$252.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,524.74; J & M HARDWARE, INC. \$1,146.66; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$118.28; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$90.00; REX INC. DBA LEXISNEXIS \$205.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$2,185.54; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$170.24; NAPA \$2,618.90; NDAE4-HYW \$200.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 911 \$858.53; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,615.00; NDEAFCS \$125.00; NDAAEA \$75.00; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$5,040.62; PFLIGER, METTA \$232.02; RAY'S AUTO ELECTRIC, INC. \$102.70; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$10.75; RDO TRUCK CENTERS \$77.88; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$829.65; RUD PROPANE LLP \$4,314.47; SAKAKAWEA MEDICAL CENTER \$200.00; SCHAEFFER, ZACHARY \$61.00; SEIFERT, BRADLEY Q. \$19.27; SIG SAUER INC. \$2,058.20; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$57.28; STERICYCLE, INC. \$20.00; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$79.24; THE RADAR SHOP INC. \$558.00; UNIFORM CENTER \$149.98; US RECORDS MIDWEST LLC \$732.57; VERIZON WIRELESS \$41.99; VOLK, GINGER R. \$302.05; WARNE CHEMICAL AND EQUIPMENT

CO. \$599.20; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$3,056.65; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$440.00 (TOTAL \$108,275.44).

Cyndi Zueger, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator, presented the following City of Beulah approved abatement application to the board;

- Abatement application for parcel number BB14488370216, at 1713 Blackstone Loop in Beulah for a reduction of \$24,780 off the original 2023 true & full value.

Frey made a motion to approve the City of Beulah abatement request for parcel number BB14488370216 as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

ibV Energy Partners Representative Eric Wedesky requested that the solar ordinance moratorium be lifted and discussed various reasons supporting this request. Folk requested more information regarding Basin Electric Cooperative's involvement and wants this revisited with the planning and zoning board. Mercer County resident Steven Eid requested to have the 35 mph speed limits signs reinstated on County Road 18, that runs east from Highway 200 to County Road 37, with two roads running north to County Road 26 and County Road 37, due to the high level of semi-truck traffic. Eid believes it is the commission's responsibility to maintain the county infrastructure and ensure public safety. Originally there were three signs; County Road 18/Hwy 200, intersection of 42 Ave SW/County Road 26, near cemetery and County Road 18/County Road 37. Eid made the point that if a semi-truck is speeding and causes issues there is no recourse without a speed limit sign. Commission requested this item to be placed on the next agenda under the Highway Department at 10:00 a.m. to be discussed with Road Superintendent Ken Miller.

Wolf made motion to approve the Armor Interactive computer purchase of \$31,416.22. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to approve the purchase of the Tyler financial software server for \$21,793.72. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Mark Schmitt presented information on the HB1307 Back the Blue funds of \$36,903 that the county has recently received. These dollars are for law enforcement recruitment and retention. The intent is for the Sheriff to use discretion on where and how the dollars would be dispersed and utilized to best fit their department needs. The Attorney General's office has indicated that these funds should be spent by March 21, 2025. No action was taken by the board.

Taylor made a motion to accept the October Recorders fees in the amount of \$3,519.80 Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There were three Mercer County planning and zoning applicants for a vacant unexpired position; Jesse Schiferl, Erick Hoffer and Lee Roy Fischer. Folk nominated Jesse Schiferl to the Mercer County planning and zoning vacant unexpired position. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. This appointment goes into effect immediately.

Taylor reported that the States Attorney has approved the Dakota Dynamics human resources contract with Tanya Wieler. Frey will sign the contract and give a copy to the Auditor's office.

Sheriff Terry Ternes is requesting to move the emergency management position out of the sheriff's office. Taylor will work with Tanya Wieler to establish and fill the emergency management position.

Portfolio updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 6, 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