

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes December 6, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners Rick Bauman, Jamee Folk, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Liza Taylor and Gene Wolf were absent. Others present during portions of the meeting were Landfill Director Candy Strand, Houston Engineering Representative Sherwin Wanner, Road Superintendent Ken Miller, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Dakota Central Human Services Zone Representative Maurice Hardy, Steven Eid, Darwin Knutson, Rick Thompson, Scott Decker, Donna Boehm, Carol Galvin, Robert Treitline, and Paul Bosch.

HR Consultant was 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 15, 2023, minutes as presented. Folk 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. ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,387.11; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$53,209.93; ASKIM, CRAIG \$255.02; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,001.00; BEULAH LUMBER CO \$68.00; BLUE 360 MEDIA, LLC \$237.62; LUCKYS TOWING AND REPAIR \$500.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$116.93; ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES \$4,053.42; CITY AIR MECHANICAL, INC. \$1,048.00; CITY OF BEULAH \$89.32; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$5,997.32; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$267,768.75; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,433.39; DEERE & COMPANY \$481.58; DIRT PRO SERVICES \$165.00; DISPLAY SALES \$208.00; DOLL, BRANDON \$30.86; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,200.00; FAIRFIELD BY MARRIOTT \$96.30; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$25.00; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$99.90; WEX BANK \$3,201.13; FOLK, JAMEE \$4.53; GRAND HOTEL \$96.30; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$212.09; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$1,738.92; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$927.95; KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY \$5,852.56; DONOVAN & KAFFAR PLLP \$2,343.75; LANGOWSKI, GONTRAN \$96.71; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$588.32; MACK TRAINING ACADEMY \$100.00; RELX INC.; DBA LEXISNEXIS \$425.11; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$301.76; MERCER COUNTY TREASURER \$12,143.29; MIDWEST DOOR INC \$352.50; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$86.26; NAPA \$2,489.26; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$3,061.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 911 \$893.05; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,690.00; ND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL CONF. \$75.00; NDSU AG COMMUNICATION \$617.85; NELSON INTERNATIONAL \$288.84; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$15,876.36; NORTHWEST TIRE; AUTO SERVICE INC. \$276.61; OFFROAD SOFTWARE, INC. \$2,025.00; ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC. \$168.51; PERREAULT CONSTRUCTION INC. \$4,050.00; PFLIGER, METTA \$275.58; PLATINUM MOTOR SPORTS INC. \$5,045.00; PRAIRIE SCAL SYSTEMS, INC. \$1,303.70; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$428.00; PRO-VISION VIDEO SYSTEMS \$111.48; PUKLICH CHEVROLET, INC. \$50.14; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$316,555.02; RETTERATH REAL ESTATE, LLP \$675.00; ROADWAY

SERVICES, INC. \$12,910.50; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$175.00; RUD PROPANE LLP \$1,458.23; S & M LAWN SERVICE \$315.00; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$57.90; SPS COMPANIES, INC. \$1,752.06; TAYLOR, LIZA \$373.24; VANGUARD APPRAISALS INC. \$5,724.80; VERIZON WIRELESS \$2,282.70; VISION WEST ND \$10.00; VOLK, GINGER R. \$75.00; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$3,055.27; YELLOW WOLF, DEVIN \$17.00 (TOTAL \$755,135.48).

Houston Engineering Senior Civil Engineer Sherwin Wanner presented the draft plans for the landfill cover project which will take place in 2024. Once contracts for this project are finalized, they will be presented to the board for approval.

Folk made a motion to approve duplicate warrant number 48870 for \$401.45 to J&M Hardware. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk made the following resolution, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mercer County Commission approves the established precincts and set polling locations for the 2024 election cycle as Vote by Mail and Hazen City Hall; and authorizes the Mercer County Auditor to establish early vote and absentee ballot precinct as necessary. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to approve the 2024 Election Joint Powers Agreement with the cities and schools. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to offer SS14484010522A, SS14484012812, SS14484020201, SS14484020203, SS14484020210, ZZ14489011006 and ZZ14489050001 back to their respective cities for \$1.00 per platted parcel and clear the property taxes on them. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey made a motion to direct all department heads and employees to contact Tanya Wieler with Dakota Dynamics, for all human resource consulting with the exception of payroll and benefit administration, via her email, [tanya@dakotadynamics.com](mailto:tanya@dakotadynamics.com) or phone, 701-640-4447. Payroll and benefit administration will remain within the Auditors office. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

County Road 18 speed limit signs and truck speed concerns agenda item was moved to the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at 10:00 a.m. as requested by Commissioner Wolf who was unable to attend this meeting.

Road Superintendent Ken Miller requested permission to purchase a walk 'n' roll packer roller for \$27,820. Bauman made a motion to approve the purchase of the walk 'n' packer roller for \$27,820. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey made a motion to authorize the highway department to purchase additional scoria and gravel as needed within their budget. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

States Attorney Todd Schwarz answered commission questions regarding Special District and Solar Ordinance.

Portfolio updates were given.

Darwin Knutson discussed the current election process that should be a community celebration and how economic development ties into this.

Recessed 10:33 a.m.

Reconvened 11:00 a.m.

Folk made a motion to close regular meeting and open the public hearing for the special assessment district ordinance. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Paul Bosch, Scott Decker, and Rick Thompson made comments. Discussion included types of financing available, long-term maintenance and voting concerns.

At 11:46 a.m. Folk made a motion to close public hearing and open regular meeting. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to amend the ordinance from seventy percent petition and protest to sixty percent petition and protest requirement. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk made a motion to add "The commission reserves the right to define the voting procedure on a district by district basis." Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Maurice Hardy gave a Dakota Central Human Services Zone update and requested a motion from the commission to appoint Anna Novak to the Human Services Zone Board as the required legislative representative. Folk made a motion to appoint Anna Novak to the Human Services Zone Board. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Hardy stated that they are working on getting a monthly site visit, possibly Beulah, to enable more Mercer County residents to have better access to these services.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Mercer County Historical Museum at 108 7 St NE in Beulah, North Dakota. The meetings can be viewed online at: [www.mercercountynd.com](http://www.mercercountynd.com).

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Frey, Chairman

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