

Mercer County Commission Minutes January 2, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Mark Pierce, Rick Bauman, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Highway Road Superintendent Elroy Opp, Assistant Road Superintendent Dennis Olheiser, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Frey Consulting Travis Frey, City of Beulah Representative Beaver Brinkman, Interstate Engineering Harvey Fitzgerald, Moore Engineering Representatives Jerod Klabunde and Tom Weigel, Beulah Resident Lucinda Johnson, Basin Electric Representative Ryan King, and Summit Carbon Solutions Environmental Specialist Amanda Hoffer.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Folk moved to approve the agenda as amended. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf turned meeting over to Auditor Carmen Reed to reorganize the board for 2025. Reed called for nominations for Chairman. Folk nominated Wolf for Chairman. Bauman seconded. Reed called for any other nominations. No further nominations heard. All voted aye. Motion carried. Wolf called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Folk moved to nominate Bauman. Voigt seconded. Wolf called for any other nominations. No further nominations heard. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the December 18, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Board reviewed vouchers. Bauman moved to table approval of vouchers until later in the meeting. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Pierce moved to approve Zoning Case 24-12-01 Basin Electric Conditional Use for 345-kV Transmission Line. Line will begin in Section 27, T144N, R84W and end in Section 16, T144N, R84W of the 5th P.M. Mercer County, ND. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner requested approval of the new mileage rate of 70 cents per mile. Voigt moved to approve the mileage rate of 70 cents per mile as of January 1, 2025. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Grinsteinner requested approval from the board to update signatures of the Auditor, Deputy Auditor, and Human Resource Director in order to continue to administer our Zurich Retirement Account. Voigt moved to approve updating signatures of the Auditor, Deputy Auditor, and Human Resource Director on the Mercer County Zurich Retirement Account. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 09:55 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Highway Road Superintendent Elroy Opp and Assistant Road Superintendent Dennis Olheiser requested the purchase of a 2013 International 7600 tandem axle snow plow with wing, belly and sander, at a cost of \$78,000. Voigt moved to

approve the purchase of the snow plow for \$78,000. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Pierce made a motion to table the Bayview Heights Project approval until the next meeting. Voigt seconded. Pierce moved to amend motion to read postpone. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moore Engineering Representatives Tom Weigel and Jerod Klabunde gave a brief overview of services that they could offer as county engineer.

Folk moved to approve the bills with the following change; Verizon phone bill of \$84.38 was changed to \$168.76. (Note: Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers was called into meeting and approved this change.) Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment ND APCO ASSOCIATION \$180.00; NORTHSTAR TRUCK SALES INC \$78,000.00; ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$414.12; ACCURATE CONTROLS, INC. \$33,105.38; AED EVERYWHERE \$332.00; THE BEACON \$1,008.44; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,196.67; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$6.76; LUCKYS TOWING AND REPAIR \$800.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$3,357.21; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$50.00; CITY AIR MECHANICAL, INC. \$2,015.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$14.17; DIRT PRO SERVICES \$165.00; DUPPONG'S INC. \$74,000.00; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,938.54; GRINSTEINER, ALICE \$493.56; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$29.99; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$7,634.74; HAZEN STAR \$81.50; AUTO VALUE \$331.23; INTERSTATE POWER SYSTEMS, INC. \$5,093.82; LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT \$8,152.16; M & B RENTALS LLP \$675.00; MENARDS \$141.17; MERCER CO AMBULANCE \$668.96; MERCER COUNTY PROPERTIES INC. \$8,739.00; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$113.14; NAPA \$237.78; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$450.00; NDACO RESOURCES GROUP \$9,980.00; ND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION \$50.00; ND SURPLUS PROPERTY DIVISION \$200.00; NDPIO \$100.00; NEUMILLER, JEN \$30.82; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$266.49; RADISSON HOTEL \$205.00; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$4,239.22; RUD PROPANE LLP \$6,767.91; STARK COUNTY \$15,000.00; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$102.01; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$4,252.14; VERIZON WIRELESS \$1,047.38; VOIGT, CASEY LEE \$206.78; PIERCE, MARK L. \$58.96 (TOTAL: \$271,932.05).

Beulah Resident Lucinda Johnson presented her concerns regarding Sheriff's Office policies. Wolf advised Johnson that these concerns can be directed to the Sheriff's portfolio holder Rick Bauman and the States Attorney.

Voigt moved to change the February 5, 2025 commission meeting to Thursday, February 6, 2025. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio Updates were given.

Recessed at 10:26 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

States Attorney Todd Schwarz advised the board regarding legality setting the per diem rates and that all mileage has to be considered a reimbursement.

Voigt moved to set the per diem at the IRS Rates and all mileage is to be paid as a nontaxable reimbursement. Pierce seconded. Voigt rescinded his motion.

Voigt moved to set the IRS rates of per diem at; Breakfast \$16, Lunch \$19, Dinner \$28 and incidental expenses \$5 totaling \$68 per day, and all reimbursed mileage is nontaxable. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bayview Heights Plan approval was discussed with Schwarz and advised that this had already been approved and the Chairman just needs to sign it. Interstate Engineering Harvey Fitzgerald was also present to answer any questions.

County Engineering RFP has been reviewed by Schwarz and he advises to go ahead and advertise. It was agreed to allow four weeks for this application, with a deadline of February 4, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. CT. Pierce moved to extend the application timeframe for the County Engineering RFP to four weeks, with a deadline of February 4, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. CT. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Schwarz advised the commission that any changes to contracts have to come through the commission and any contract signed by the commission should be approved by the States Attorney.

Folk moved to set a moratorium on ore processing for six months in Mercer County, ND. Voigt seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 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: _____
Gene Wolf, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor