

Mercer County Commission Minutes January 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Mark Pierce, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Rick Bauman was absent. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteiner, Recorder Shannan Senger, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Frey Consulting Travis Frey, Summit Carbon Solutions Environmental Specialist Amanda Hoffer, Fair Board Representative Jeff Klein, NDACo County Employer Group (CEG) Representatives Michael Wolf and Michael Casey.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Folk moved to table approval of the January 2, 2024 meeting minutes until further clarification is made. Pierce seconded. All voted Aye. Motion carried. Board reviewed vouchers. Pierce moved to approve all bills except for Interstate Engineering bill of \$31,583.10. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$34.61; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,461.00; BRODKORB, VICKIE \$1,643.38; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$10,140.86; CENTER MACHINE INC \$581.93; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$277.40; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH \$487.00; CITY OF BEULAH \$405.16; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF HAZEN \$9,500.00; CITY OF STANTON \$6,231.36; CIVICPLUS LLC \$5,057.12; COLONIAL RESEARCH CHEMICAL CORP. \$507.89; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$920.33; DAKOTA POWER HYDRAULICS \$829.14; DIRECT MED \$72.07; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$310.00; FLEMMER, RYAN \$14.00; FOLK, JAMEE \$877.96; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$60.96; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$231.40; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$63.92; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,931.74; INTERSTATE ENGINEERING INC \$17,426.84; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$161.48; LANGOWSKI, GONTRAN \$188.51; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$272.34; MERCER COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION \$90,000.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$1,490.40; MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY \$5,000.00; MID-STATE ORGANIZED CRIME INF CENTR \$150.00; MOSS, GARY \$18.00; MOUNTAIN PLAINS YOUTH SERVICE \$8,240.00; NAPA \$129.14; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES; \$64,322.59; ND COUNTY AUDITORS ASS'N \$500.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$1,554.82; OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL \$2,644.72; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,395.00; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$441.45; PLATINUM MOTOR SPORTS INC \$4,539.80; PRAIRIE SCALE SYSTEMS, INC. \$3,241.76; PROSOURCE SPECIALTIES LLC \$1,925.91; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$1,202.63; SAILER, SHANNON \$28.00; SCHEID, RICHARD \$12.60; SCHLENDER, SCOTT \$25.20; SEIBEL, NEIL E \$144.41; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$59.61; TESKY, LEONARD \$720.00; THE BEACON \$713.46; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$187.86; TOWER COMMUNICATIONS INC \$555.00; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$15,266.10; UNIFORM CENTER \$51.98; VERIZON WIRELESS \$84.08; VISION WEST ND \$1,000.00; VOLK,

GINGER R. \$45.57; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$1,784.29; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,559.50; WEX BANK \$2,731.75; WOLF, GENE \$723.69. (Total: \$280,207.47)

Recessed at 10:05 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

Folk moved to approve Temporary Use Case #638 Energy Sand Solutions-Sand mining -S2 5-144-85, Ben Thomas-Renewal through the year. Voigt seconded. Folk amended motion to be tabled. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to award the Zoning Ordinance Update/Rewrite RFP to Apex, Donovan, and Kaffar. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recorder Shannan Senger presented information regarding the purchase of a scanner. Folk moved to approve the presented scanner purchase, which includes costs of \$15,303.56 large scanner, \$970.43 touchscreen monitor with adjustable arm, and \$1,120.06 maintenance agreement. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Pierce noted that he would like to see at least two bids on requested purchases from departments.

NDACo CEG Representative Michael Wolf and Michael Casey explained the higher insurance rates that Mercer County will be experiencing over the next couple years due to the loss of a sheriff's deputy in the line of duty and how the CEG helps alleviate some of these high premiums.

At 11:00 a.m. Voigt moved to close the regular meeting. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to open the Public Meeting for the Flood Ordinance. Pierce seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried. Director Jen Neumiller read the ordinance and noted changes of the updated Flood Ordinance. This has been the first reading of the ordinance. Second reading will be held on February 6, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. No Public comments were heard.

Folk moved to close the public meeting. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to open the regular meeting. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

County Fair Board representative Jeff Klein requested \$150,000 versus the \$61,000 that was budgeted, due to extensive expenses that the Fair has experienced over the past year. Folk moved to amend the Fair Board budgeted amount of \$61,000 to \$90,000. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Treasurer Dawn Grannis gave an update on county pledges and investments. States Attorney Todd Schwarz discussed the Temporary Use Case #638 and the importance of bonds that protect the county. Folk amended the tabled motion from one year to three months. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner discussed courthouse security and she is also suggesting an updated policy of key cards and inventory of all keys.

Folk moved to approve the BND loan request of \$3,031.65 for payment of a Bayview Heights professional services bill. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor Carmen Reed stated that as of January 1, 2025 Auditor's office is now live on new financial software, but Treasurer and Tax assessor are not going live until July of this year.

Folk moved to approve the December Recorder Fees of \$4,565.40. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve moving the February 19 2024, regular meeting to February 20, 2024, due to a legislative conference in Bismarck. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt requested permission for the County Road Department to upgrade County Road 20 for use during the bridge replacement. Folk moved to approve the County Road department to complete County Road 20 testing west of Beulah from Hwy 49 to the Airport. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to have a journal entry done to move \$25,000 from the building maintenance line item #441 to come out of line item #438. Voigt seconded All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to have a journal entry done to move the \$57,972.48 radio expense from the Sheriff's line item #461 to the 911 fund line item #446. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 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