

Mercer County Commission Minutes February 4, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman.

Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Mark Pierce, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were Sheriff Terry Ternes, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser, Donovan & Kaffar, PLLP Attorney Mark Kaffar, Planning & Zoning Chairman Mike Eslinger, and Dale Schwalbe.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Folk moved to approve the January 21, 2026 regular meeting minutes with the following amendments on page 2, line 17 remove "so he could have them removed as is his responsibility as Sheriff" and on line 33, take out "bring those forms of revenue back to the county" and replace with "update amounts of revenue to the county." Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner presented the updated Mercer-Oliver Joint Powers Agreement for HR and EM. Voigt moved to approve the Joint Powers Agreement as presented. Wolf seconded. Voigt amended the motion to decrease the hourly wage of both the HR and EM from \$54.94/hour to \$52.94/hour, a \$2 decrease. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the Recorder December Revenues of \$5,353.40. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser discussed the Golden Valley shop roof repairs and presented a quote from Western Steel Builders for \$37,300. Wolf moved to put the roof repair and/or replacement of the Golden Valley shop out on bids. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The tied vote motion from the last meeting was revoted on to appoint Andy Thomas to the Planning and Zoning Board. Folk, Voigt, and Pierce voted aye. Wolf and Bauman voted nay. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to appoint Brian Kerns to the Water Board. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to change the Wednesday, March 4, 2026 meeting to Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The importance of preserving county engineering records was discussed.

The NW Landowners Association 2026 Conference of Emerging Industry was discussed.

Recessed at 9:45 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

States Attorney Todd Schwarz and Attorney Mark Kaffar discussed the Ordinance Rewrite Project and the completed draft that has been submitted for review. The Next Planning and Zoning meeting will be on February 11, 2026 at the Beulah Civic Center. No Public Comment was heard.

The purchase and use of the Beulah Building was discussed.

Portfolio Updates were given.

Pierce moved to approve the bills as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: 3-D SPECIALITIES \$32,786.23; North Central International, LLC \$1,069.87; WESTERN STEEL BUILDERS \$5,273.00; ACCURATE CONTROLS, INC. \$33,453.18; ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,699.11; BAUMAN, RICK \$424.10; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,196.67; BEULAH ND HARDWARE \$201.52; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$9,235.22; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$63,912.01; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$430.48; CITY OF STANTON \$6,783.14; CNA SURETY \$50.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$738.24; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,544.06; FITTERER OIL HAZEN LLC \$743.30; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$167.22; HAZEN STAR \$1,662.25; JOHNSEN TRAILER SALES, INC. \$1,207.74; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$229.54; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$324.52; LUCKYS TOWING AND REPAIR \$400.00; MENARDS \$134.80; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$1,832.80; MID-DAKOTA WHEEL ALIGNMENT \$1,108.55; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$131.73; NAPA \$867.17; ND APCO ASSOCIATION \$540.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$973.30; ND SECRETARY OF STATE \$72.00; ND SHERIFF'S & DEPUTIES ASSOC. \$500.00; NDEMA \$50.00; NDLTAP \$50.00; NDPIO \$100.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$9,378.85; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$7,302.58; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$19,973.81; RUD PROPANE LLP \$5,235.51; T-MOBILE USA, INC \$172.66; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$360.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$126.53; VOIGT, CASEY LEE \$258.80; WOLF, GENE \$87.70; GRINSTEINNER, ALICE \$469.38. (TOTAL: \$213,257.57)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 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: _____
Rick Bauman, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor