

**Mercer County Commission  
Minutes  
February 15, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Vice Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners, Jamee Folk, Rick Bauman and Auditor Samantha Melberg. Commissioner Liza Taylor and Chairman Travis Frey entered late. Others present during portions of the meeting were Mike Schutt, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Sheriff Ternes, Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, Candy Strand, Ashley Miller, Chip Erickson, Kent Roth, and Jim Albers.

Folk moved to approve the agenda with additions. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Bauman moved to approve the minutes as presented from the February 1, 2023 commission meeting. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Board reviewed bills.

Commissioner Taylor entered the meeting at 9:29 A.M.

Chairman Frey entered the meeting at 9:33 A.M.

Bauman moved to approve bills as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

The following bills were approved for payment. (Check #47680-47749)  
(ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$529.75; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$1,881.00; ASKIM, CRAIG \$187.44; BERT'S TRUCK EQUIPMENT OF MOORHEAD \$265.00; THE BEACON \$334.56; BEULAH DRUG \$30.40; BEULAH LUMBER CO. \$4.99; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$8,557.51; BUTLER MACHINERY CO. \$2,479.99; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$759.30; CITY AIR MECHANICAL, INC. \$2,655.00; CITY OF BEULAH \$93.91; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$7,067.74; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$71,758.00; CUSTER HEALTH DISTRICT \$4,623.15; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$1,673.23; DACOTAH PAPER CO \$316.91; DIRT PRO SERVICES \$165.00; ELECTONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$2,400.00; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$28,478.90; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$263.01; FREY, TRAVIS \$114.68; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$133.95; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$89.45; HAZEN STAR \$143.02; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,359.34; INTERSTATE ENGINEERING INC. \$22,550.00; J & M HARDWARE, INC. \$110.54; KIM'S APPLIANCE SERVICE, INC. \$498.85; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$155.98; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICE \$90.00; REX INC. DBA LEXISNEXIS \$199.00; MELBERG, SAMANTHA \$50.00; MERCER CO AMBULANCE \$300.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$2,051.27; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$154.44; MID-STATE ORGANIZED CRIME INF CENTR \$150.00; NAPA \$2,201.98; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$9,839.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 911 \$1,071.36; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,475.00; ND CLERK'S ASSOCIATION \$100.00; ND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASS'N \$1,650.00; ND DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES \$566.41; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$3,878.84; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$2,494.98; NORTH DAKOTA ENVELOPE COMPANY \$2,924.25; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$1,308.08; ODP BUSINESS

SOLUTIONS INC. \$54.66; OK AUTOMOTIVE \$849.88; PFLIGER, METTA \$149.82; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$502.45; POITRAS, RACHEL \$84.98; POSTMASTER \$68.00; POSTMASTER \$163.80; REED, CARMEN \$72.60; RICE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE \$70.00; ROBERTS FLORAL \$45.50; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$1,250.72; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$58.99; STAPLES CREDIT PLAN \$3,083.38; STERICYCLE, INC. \$20.00; STROUP INSURANCE INC. \$50.00; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$132.93; UNIFORM CENTER \$1,129.95; VANGUARD APPRAISALS INC. \$5,332.80; VAXSERVE \$191.94; VERIZON WIRELESS \$740.40; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$3,685.09). (Totaling: \$211,952.85).

Bauman moved to approve bills as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Meeting was turned over to Chairman Frey.

Dawn Grannis gave Treasurers report.

Bauman moved to leave CD interest from the building CD into the building fund.

Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed. Folk moved to approve a duplicate check to Michael Rauch in the amount of \$44.37. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Auditor Melberg presented the 2022 Budget Amendments.

Wolf moved to approve amendments as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Recess at 10:02 A.M.

Reconvened at 10:07 A.M.

Bauman gave update to the 2023 Road Policy.

Bauman moved to approve the 2023 Road Policy as presented. Wolf seconded.

Discussion was held. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Tayler gave HR update.

Discussion was held for the P & Z appointment. Bauman moved to appoint Maynard Zueger to the P & Z Board. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

States Attorney Schwarz requested to amend his library line item under the States Attorney Budget for Lexus Nexus. It would increase the States Attorney budget approximately \$2,400.00.

Folk moved to amend the budget to account for the library use. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Melberg presented January Sheriff fees in the amount of \$36,641.75.

Wolf moved to approve January Sheriffs fees. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator Carmen Reed presented the CRIB (Southwest Coordinator Regional Board) nomination. Sheriff Terry Ternes will need to be appointed to the position.

Taylor moved to appoint Terry Ternes to the Southwest Coordinator Regional Board. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Melberg gave update to the delinquent tax lots that were offered for sale back to the Cities. The City of Beulah accepted the offer for parcel BB14488680609, lot 9 Blk 6 Prairie Hills Add Filing 2.

Wolf moved to sell the City of Beulah parcel BB14488680609 in the amount of \$1.00. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

The City of Stanton declined to purchase parcel SS14484010116, S 85' Lots 5 & 6 Blk 15, 312 Selmes Ave.

Wolf moved to publicly advertise parcel SS14484010116 in Stanton to open bid. Bids will be accepted until April 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. and will accept the three highest bids. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Bauman discussed the purchase of a new K9 for the Sheriffs department. Sheriff Ternes has been negotiating with the City of Beulah to purchase their K9, Raider. Ternes offered \$5,000.00 but the City countered with \$18,000.00. Bauman offered \$7,500.00 to Chief Senn and he accepted.

Bauman moved to approve the purchase of K9 Raider from the City of Beulah in the amount of \$7,500.00. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Sheriff Ternes discussed the decommissioning of older vehicles in his fleet.

Chip Erickson of C&L Backhoe discussed his interest in the purchase of the Auction House in Stanton. He would like to move forward with the purchase but asked about the Special Taxes owed on the property. States Attorney Schwarz cannot advise the commission to waive the Special Taxes and he will have to take that up with the City of Stanton.

Wolf moved to sell the Auction House to Chip Erickson for \$1.00 with the exception that the buyer is responsible for the taxes owed on the property and Mr. Erickson will have until March 15, 2023 to confirm the purchase. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Rezoning application for the Lazy H to be signed. Chairman Frey recused from signing.

Bauman moved to close bids for the Short-Term Landfill Cropland Lease. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed. Bids were as follows:

Travis Nelson - \$52.00 an acre

Miles Mettler - \$50.00 an acre

Robert Strand - \$45.00 an acre

Ryan Wolf - \$46.00 an acre

Mike Schutt - \$45.00 an acre

Cody Thomas - \$48.00 an acre

Bauman moved to accept Travis Nelsons bid of \$52.00 an acre for the 29 acres of landfill cropland for a three-year lease. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Portfolio updates were given.

Recessed at 11:27 A.M.

Reconvened at 11:31 A.M.

Chairman Frey asked the public to step out so the board can move into Executive Session.

Taylor moved to end the regular meeting and move into executive session to receive legal council from the States Attorney. Folk seconded. Taylor aye, Folk aye, Bauman nay, Wolf nay, Frey aye. Motion passed.

Executive session began at 11:35 A.M.

Executive session adjourned at 11:59 A.M.

Open meeting back in session. Public was welcomed back to the open meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 1, at 9:00 AM in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. The meetings can be viewed online at [www.mercercountynd.com](http://www.mercercountynd.com)

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha Melberg, Auditor