

**Mercer County Commission Minutes
June 17, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Jamee Folk. Present were Commissioners Steve Guenther, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Rick Bauman was absent. Others present during the meeting were Sheriff Terry Ternes, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, NextEra Representatives Chase *Dauenhauer*, Wayne *Bertsch*, Stephanie Morales, Laura Hopkins, Chris DiClemente, David Denison, Chris Kaiser, Mike Knuth, Kay LaCoe, Basin Electric Power Cooperative representative John (Jack) Schuh, District 33 Representatives Signe Snortland, Kimball Banks, Western Dakota Energy Association Alison Ritter, ND Pipeline Authority Executive Director Justin Kringstad, ND Transmission Authority Executive Director Clarie Vigesaa, WBI Energy Representative Josh Hager, Darwin Knutson, Lori Hammer, Michael Berg, Weston Berg, Kevin Hafner, Wes Klein, Kevin Hafner, Linette Irwin, Tara Dukart, Dallas Maas, Dwight Berger, and Wayne Windhorst.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Voigt moved to approve the June 3, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner presented the Emergency Declaration that occurred on June 7, 2026 due to severe storms that the county has experienced. Voigt moved to approve the Emergency Declaration as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

ND Pipeline Authority Executive Director Justin Kringstad presented a Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline update.

ND Transmission Authority Executive Director Clarie Vigesaa presented information regarding Electric Transmission.

Kroll 3rd Party Tax Consultant David Denison discussed economic impacts regarding the building of the data center.

AECOM Acoustical Engineer Chris Kaiser a 3rd Party Acoustics and Noise Expert explained the dynamics of sound studies.

Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller presented the following:

- Zoning Case 26-06-01-Non-Farm Residence- Kale Rorvik- Tract A in SE4SE4 144-85-18. Guenther moved to approve zoning case 26-06-01 as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Updated Mercer County Zoning Maps were presented and discussed.

Recessed at 10:21 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:26 a.m.

Voigt moved to approve the Ward County Juvenile Detention Center Joint Powers Agreement as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf moved to approve the Sheriff's Office May revenues of \$51,835.51 as presented. Guenther seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the Beulah Little People Raffle Permit as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to approve the duplicate check for Ron and Jackie Isaak for \$1,377.18 as presented. Voigt seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

Wolf moved to approve the 2026 County Township Road Mileage Certification as presented. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to approve award of the 2026 Mercer County Pavement Marking Project contract to West River Striping Company in the amount of \$114,794.45 and authorize execution of contract documents. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Voigt moved to approve award of the 2026 Mercer County Patching Project contract to Bechtold Paving Inc. in the amount of \$142,162.50, and authorize execution of contract documents. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The Cooperating Agency Request- Bureau of Land Management agenda item will go to the States Attorney for review and then be placed back on agenda.

Voigt moved to approve the J2 Studio bill of \$7,225 for architectural design work regarding the Beulah Building as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mercer County resident Darwin Knutson requested that the following measure be placed on the general election ballot: "Shall Mercer County allow the building of a data center in Mercer County? No – means, no data center will be built in Mercer County, Yes – means, a data center will be built with a community impact agreement. States Attorney Todd Schwarz gave input on this request and addressed the process of ballot measures.

During Public Comment, the following people spoke: Tara Dukart, Sidney Snortland, Wes Klein, and Michael Berg.

Portfolio Updates were given

Wolf moved to approve the bills as presented. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,606.00; BERG, MICHAEL \$31.90; BEULAH ND HARDWARE \$302.72; BRODKORB, VICKIE \$1,281.23; CENTRAL DAKOTA FRONTIER COOPERATIVE \$4,804.00; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$31.97; CITY OF STANTON \$7,115.19; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$419.41; DAKOTA FENCE \$1,242.00; DAKOTA REFRIGERATION, INC \$1,059.00; DIRECT MED \$488.75; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$88.65; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOC. LTD \$33.00; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$869.58; FLEMMER, RYAN \$14.50; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$8.49; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$186.40; HAZEN STAR \$3,654.20; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,552.90; J2 Studio \$7,225.00; KNIFE RIVER VETERINARY CLINIC \$781.30; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$69.90; LANGOWSKI, GONTRAN \$130.50; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$90.00; MERCER COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$600.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$479.76; MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS \$3,377.40; NAPA \$630.71; NDSWRA \$165.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$31,172.09; NEUMILLER, JEN \$66.70; NEWMAN SIGNS INC \$376.40; North Central International, LLC \$2,623.93; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$11,022.00; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$2,437.00; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$415.35; PRO VISION \$78.85; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$5,659.47; RDO EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$1,204.03; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY \$51.11; ROUGHRIDER

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$969.44; SAILER, SHANNON \$29.00; SCHEID, RICHARD \$12.85; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$57.33; SRF CONSULTING GROUP, INC \$8,555.50; Stein's Inc \$381.46; THE BEACON \$286.00; THE GARDEN MILL \$104.86; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$122.13; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$1,010.00; UNIFORM CENTER \$600.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$42.06; VOIGT, CASEY LEE \$222.55; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,652.23; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$8,628.48; WOLF, GENE \$87.70; WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE \$340.26; BIEBER, GERALD \$7.25; BOESHANS, JAYME \$29.00; CITY OF BEULAH \$170.25; COLE, SHANNON \$33.35; ESLINGER, MIKE \$38.43; HAFNER, KEVIN \$71.78; REED, CARMEN A \$295.00; RENNER, CHRIS \$33.35; STRAND, CANDICE \$29.94; THOMAS, ANDY \$24.65; RDO MOTER GRADER LEASE PAYMENT \$88,978.43. (Total: \$212,259.67)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. Meetings can be viewed live at <https://www.youtube.com/@MercerCo>

Approved: _____
Jamee Folk, Vice-Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor